FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-032
Thursday
15 February 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-032 *15 February 1990*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Interviewed on Bus Attack, Other Issues *[Amman AL-RA'Y 12 Feb]* 1
Democratic Front Reports Anti-Israeli Operation *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 6
PLO Asks Jordan To Host PCC Meeting in March *[Amman JORDAN TIMES 8-9 Feb]* 6
Jewish Emigration To Head Agenda *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 9 Feb]* 7
Other Agenda Items Discussed *[Amman AL-DUSTUR 11 Feb]* 7
PLO Official Discusses PNC, Jewish Emigration *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 9 Feb]* 8
Speaker Interviewed on Formation of New PNC *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 4 Feb]* 9
PLO Official Blames Shamir for Bus Incident *[MENA]* 10

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak Seeks International Plan on Emigration *[AL-SHA'B 13 Feb]* 11
Muslim Brotherhood Condemns Jewish Emigration *[AL-SHA'B 13 Feb]* 11
Editor Says 'Israeli Extremism' Behind Bus Attack *[UKTUBAR 11 Feb]* 11
Columnist Urges Discontinuation of Israeli Tourism *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 8 Feb]* 13
Columnist Criticizes Anti-PLO Remarks *[AL-WAFD 13 Feb]* 13
Seminar on Egyptian-Iraqi Ties Opens in Cairo *[MENA]* 14
Security Forces Detain 'Extremists' in 'Ayn Shams *[AL-AKHBAR 13 Feb]* 15
Mubarak Moscow Visit Set for 19 Mar *[MENA]* 15
'Abd-al-Majid Confers With Soviet Ambassador *[MENA]* 15
Soviet Economy Official Arrives 15 Feb *[MENA]* 15
'Abd-al-Majid Meets Belgian Minister *[MENA]* 15
Bahraini Foreign Minister Leaves Cairo *[MENA]* 16
YAR Foreign Minister Arrives 15 Feb *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Meets With 'Abd-al-Majid *[MENA]* 16
Washington Ambassador Signs Electricity Loan *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 3 Feb]* 16

Mauritania

Foreign Minister, OAU Official Interviewed *[MENA]* 16
Official Returns From Drought Committee Meeting *[Nouakchott Radio]* 17

Sudan

Al-Bashir Says Southern Security 'Satisfactory' *[SUNA]* 17
Al-Bashir on New Political Organization Measures *[SUNA]* 17
Minister Reacts to FRG Statements on Negotiations *[SUNA]* 17
Egyptian, Sudanese Agriculture Ministers in Talks *[SUNA]* 17
Agriculture Minister Returns From Yugoslavia *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
Saudi Aid To Fund Projects in North, Khartoum *[SUNA]* 18

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

USSR Warned on Soviet Jewish Emigration *[KUNA]* 19

Oman

Bus Incident Demands Israel Reconsideration *['UMAN 9 Feb]* 19

Saudi Arabia

Newspapers Report Attack on Israelis in Egypt *[AL-MADINAH 6 Feb, etc.]* 19
Major Powers Blamed for Palestinians' Lot *[AL-RIYAD 10 Feb]* 20
Editorial on Soviet Jews' Emigration to Israel *[AL-RIYAD 11 Feb]* 20

IRAQ

Council Praises European Parliament's Israel Move *[Baghdad Radio]* 22
GDR Official Visits To Promote Bilateral Trade 22
Meets Trade Minister *[INA]* 22
Delivers Message to Hammadi *[INA]* 22
Sudanese Trade Minister Arrives on Visit 13 Feb *[INA]* 22
'Udayy Saddam Husayn To Head Soccer Association *[WAKH]* 22

ISRAEL

Sharon Explains Reasons for Cabinet Resignation *[Jerusalem TV]* 23
Syrian, Israeli Peace Talks Said Held in Vienna *[Jerusalem International]* 24
Shamir Dismisses Reported Talks With Syria *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Rabin on Immigration, Mideast Arms, War Threat *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Levi: Likud Objects to Deportees, E. Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Shamir Promises To Honor VOA Station Accord *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Environmental Checks Assured *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
'Defamatory' Article Prompts Basyuni Summons *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Netanyahu: Ministry 'Reassessing' S. Africa Ties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
S. African Ambassador Urges Lifting Sanctions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
New Ambassadors Named; Peres Rejects Likud Man *['AL HAMISHMAR 15 Feb]* 26
El Al Launches Talks With GDR Airline Interflug *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
1 'Terrorist' Killed, 3 Captured in S. Lebanon *[Jerusalem TV]* 26
Adviser Fears PLO-Hamas Conflict, Violence *[THE JERUSALEM POST 15 Feb]* 27
General Strike by Golan Druze Ends Uneventfully *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27

JORDAN

Paper on Aims of King's Talks With King Fahd *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 15 Feb]* 28
House Appeals for Unity Against 'Common Enemy' *[PETRA-JNA]* 28
'Tangible' Increase in U.S. Aid for 1990 *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 28
$500 Million in Aid Said Needed in 1990 *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 28

LEBANON

Ja'ja' Rejects 'Awn Appeal for United Front *[AFP]* 29
Ja'ja' Proposes 'National Authority' Under 'Awn *[VOL]* 29
'Awn's Conditions for Settlement Outlined *[Beirut Radio]* 30
'Awn Denies Plan for Separate State *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* 30
Violent Fighting Reported in Kasrawan 14 Feb *[Beirut Radio]* 30
Red Cross Sends Medicine, Food to Eastern Area *[Beirut Radio]* 30

Deputy: U.S. Experts Advised Ja'ja' To Redeploy *[VOM]* 31
New Cease-Fire Agreement Goes Into Effect 15 Feb *[VOL]* 31
'Awn's Forces Violate Cease-Fire *[VOL]* 31
Fighting in Eastern Areas *[Beirut Radio]* 31
W. Beirut Areas Shelled; Casualties *[VOM]* 31
VOL Radio Building Under Fire *[VOL]* 32
Ja'ja' Forces Shell Several Areas *[Voice of National Resistance]* 32
VOL Assails 'Awn Media 'Lies' 32
Ja'ja' Statement on Offensive *[VOL]* 33
Mediator Comments on Cease-Fire *[VOL]* 33
Al-Khalil Advocates Military Action Against 'Awn *[Beirut Radio]* 33
Communist Party Claims Attack on Israelis *[AFP]* 34
Resistance Operations, Israeli Activities Reported *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Maronite Bishop Reviews Christian Conflict *[Paris LE MONDE 13 Feb]* 34
Soviet Envoy on Domestic Crisis, Jewish Immigration *[Voice of the People]* 35
Al-Hirawi Chairs Meeting on East Beirut Events *[Beirut Radio]* 35
Junblatt: 'Alliance' Against 'Awn, Ja'ja' Needed *[VOM]* 36
Ja'ja' Thanks Mitterrand for French 'Initiative' *[VOL]* 36

SYRIA

Article Questions U.S. Military Reorganization *[TISHRIN 10 Feb]* 37
Al-Zu'bi Meets Media, Discusses Economic Gains *[Damascus Radio]* 37
Columnist Calls for Arab Unity on Emigration *[AL-BA'TH 11 Feb]* 38
TISHRIN Also Calls for Arab Unity *[SANA]* 38
Al-Zu'bi Interviewed on Arab Unity, Lebanon *[Damascus TV]* 38

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speech on Troop Withdrawal Anniversary *[Kabul Radio]* 40
Pakistani Charge Summoned on 'Intervention' *[BAKHTAR]* 41
100-Truck Government Supply Convoy Reaches Gardez *[AFP]* 41

Bangladesh

Least Developed Countries Adopt Declaration *[Dhaka Radio]* 41
Bad Weather Forces Austria's Mock To Stop Over *[AFP]* 42
Foreign Minister Meets Nepalese Counterpart 13 Feb *[Dhaka Radio]* 42
Chinese Air Force Chief Meets Counterpart *[Dhaka Radio]* 42
Calls on Ershad *[Dhaka Radio]* 42
Demonstrations Banned Before Opposition Campaign *[AFP]* 42

India

Singh Blames Pakistan for 'Terrorism' in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Minister Rules Out Dialogue With 'Subversives' *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Janata Party Demands Firm U.S. Stand on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Swiss Authorities To Assist in Bofors Inquiry *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Austrian Foreign Minister Holds News Conference *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Protocol on Hydroelectric Power Signed With USSR *[Delhi Radio]* 44
3 Explosions Reported in Srinagar City *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Congress-I Leads Manipur Polls; Violence Noted *[Delhi Radio]* 44

Iran

Tehran Comments on Anniversary of Rushdie Decree *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Velayati Message on Confronting Rushdie 'Plot' *[Tehran TV]* 45
Mohtashemi: Rushdie Apology Cannot Affect Fatwa *[IRNA]* 45
Foundation Supports Fatwa *[Tehran Radio]* 46

Foundations Ask Khamene'i To Form New Council *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Iran, USSR Sign Agreement on Border Travel *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Zambian Parliamentary Speaker Arrives in Tehran *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Meets With Karrubi *[IRNA]* 47
Velayati Comments on Release of Mandela *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Velayati Meets Lebanese Hizballah Council Members *[Tehran TV]* 47
Yazdi Meets Delegation *[Tehran Radio]* 48
GDR's Fischer Sends Message to Velayati *[IRNA]* 48
Problems Facing Restoration of EC Ties Viewed *[Radio of the Iranian Toilers]* 48
Baku Clergyman on Political-Religious Links *[IRNA]* 49
Construction Jihad Representative Appointed *[Tehran TV]* 49
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Expresses Need for Inventors *[IRNA]* 49
Aluminum Production Increase Described *[Tehran Radio]* 50

Pakistan

Bhutto Views Nuclear Cooperation With France *[AFP]* 50
Sind Assembly Supports Government on Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 51
Kashmiris Launch Diplomatic Offensive *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 9 Feb]* 51
Indian High Commission Denies Arrests in Chakothi *[THE MUSLIM 15 Feb]* 52
Chinese Here To Discuss Defense Cooperation *[Islamabad Radio]* 52

Sri Lanka

Government To Repeal 6 Emergency Regulations *[AFP]* 52
Wijeratne: India Plotting To Kill 'Key Men' *[AFP]* 53
EPRLF Supports Effort To Unite Tamil Groups *[Delhi Radio]* 53

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Interviewed on Bus Attack, Other Issues

JN1202085090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Feb 90 p 14

["Text" of interview with Yasir 'Arafat, "president of the state of Palestine," conducted by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan, chief editor of AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, in Tunis on 8 February "published in AL-RA'Y today by special arrangement"]

[Text] ['Atwan] An article in the Israeli newspaper THE JERUSALEM POST says that Yasir 'Arafat seeks the peace of Salah al-Din, and therefore, it is impossible to negotiate with him or believe what he says. What is your response?

['Arafat] This was said by Dan Meridor, a former general and a Likud leader. He represents the viewpoint of a high percentage of Israeli extremists and fanatics. Meridor is a close friend of Dennis Ross, the U.S. Department of State's envoy. When Ross visits Israel he stays at Meridor's residence, not at a hotel. And when Meridor visits Washington he stays at Ross' residence as his guest.

My answer is: If they believe that the Palestinians will accept the Israeli conditions they are deluding themselves even if all world forces stand with them. I called for the peace of brave men. I will continue to call for this and we will not accept capitulation.

The U.S. Administration is propagating the Israeli plan in a twisted manner despite the statements made by James Baker on the necessity of the Israeli withdrawal. The rest of the U.S. Administration, however, is trying to bypass this to help Shamir implement his hellish plan to quell the intifadah and humiliate the Palestinian people. And I say to the whole world that the mountain cannot be shaken by the wind.

Our people will continue the revolution and intifadah one wave after another until the Israeli occupation ends and the Palestinian flag is raised in Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine.

['Atwan] Don't you believe that the three-year-old intifadah is not as strong as when it started?

['Arafat] This is reiterated by the Western media. I would like to say something important to you: In 1970 they thought the Palestinian revolution was ended and destroyed; in 1976 they believed the same thing; in 1982, when the resistance forces departed Lebanon, they also said the same thing; and in 1984 they repeated it. Now, they imagine they can quell the intifadah. I want to remind them that Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin believed that he could end the intifadah within two days. I challenged him when he said this at the end of 1987. I told him: You have two days, two weeks, two years; you have all the time in the world. Rabin himself now says that it is difficult to end the intifadah "through military means" and asked the Israeli Cabinet to give him another year and a half to end the intifadah.

We say to Rabin: We will wait; and we have the capacity to wait. We will not deceive our people. The revolution and intifadah have the capacity to wait. Our slogan is: If anybody becomes tired he can rest and send his children and we will continue the march.

['Atwan] Ari'el Sharon is now waging party battles to return to the Defense Ministry to end the intifadah through bloodier methods. In your opinion, can he return to the Defense Ministry and end the intifadah?

['Arafat] Sharon will not be given the Defense Ministry because he is accused of carrying out crimes during the Lebanon war, and the committee created to discuss this war convicted him. Therefore, the decision to dismiss him from the Army and the Defense Ministry came through the court. It is difficult for any Israeli Cabinet to bypass the decisions of the committee formed to investigate Sharon.

['Atwan] Do you not believe that the issue of the names of the Palestinian delegation has been drawn-out, has entered into the process of give-and-take, and has overshadowed crucial issues?

['Arafat] Regrettably, this is part of the U.S. obstruction attempt. Every day, they come out with a new mine, the latest being the publication of a list of names in the Israeli paper MA'ARIV with the objective of creating confusion. They said that this so-called list does not contain names from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], or the Hamas Movement. This is to incite the PFLP and the brothers in Hamas against us.

['Atwan] Did you really submit lists of candidates to the Palestinian delegation?

['Arafat] We did not submit such lists. Anything of this kind will be discussed in detail with the Palestinian command. We have nothing secret. The decision will be made by the PLO Executive Committee, and by the PLO Central Council which are the same channels within which we make our decisions.

['Atwan] So far, no lists have been submitted?

['Arafat] I have not submitted any of the lists that MA'ARIV has mentioned.

['Atwan] Not even the specifications of the delegation?

['Arafat] Yes, we submitted specifications, and these specifications were accepted.

['Atwan] Can we enumerate these specifications?

['Arafat] The members of the delegation should be from inside and outside the occupied territories, including holy Jerusalem, given that Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Palestine. We also are aware that the delegation's members should not be from among those against whom sentences were passed. All these things should be taken

into consideration. Any delegation, whether it is agreed upon or not, will have to fall within these specifications. You do not name a convicted person to a delegation that will hold negotiations because you do not want your oponent to be able to exploit this.

['Atwan] The United States still refuses to allow the PLO to choose or to announce its delegation to any negotiations?

['Arafat] There is something far more serious than this. I would like to ask the U.S. Administration and the world at large the following question: Has it ever happened throughout history that an enemy has chosen the members of a delegation of its enemies. Even those who are defeated choose the members of the delegation that sign the document of surrender. The victor also chooses the members of its delegation that will sign the document of victory. What the Americans and the Israelis are asking us is unprecedented in history. Even Aba Eban, one of the veterans of Israeli politics and diplomacy was surprised that Israel would resort to such things. The Israeli intransigence is U.S. intransigence in view of the unlimited U.S. support.

Bush offered his condolences to the victims on the Ismailia bus. He has never contacted any Palestinian leader, or any Palestinian family to offer his condolences on the martyrs who are killed by Israel's official army which uses U.S. weapons in violation of U.S. laws. He sees this daily on U.S. television. Why? Is the shedding of our blood lawful? Is it permissible to shed the blood of our chidren and women? This is racial discrimination the U.S. Administration is practicing. It has been ignoring 26 months of our people's intifadah during which our defenseless people have been facing U.S. bullets and planes. Is there a more evident violation of human rights as the one that is daily taking place against the human rights of the Palestinian individual in the occupied territories?

So far, 1,050 martyrs have fallen from our side, 57,000 have been wounded, with 6,600 permanently handicapped. Due to the use of chemical substances 5,600 miscarriages have occured. They say these substances are tear gas bombs although it has been proved by two U.S. and Belgian medical committees that they are internationally-prohibited chemical shells. In addition, 66,000 persons have been detained, thousands of houses were either demolished or sealed off, and thousands of hectars of fruit trees have been burned in an effort to starve our people. Hospitals have been attacked and schools and universities have been closed for the 3d consecutive year. I ask the American people, who take pride in being a faithful Christian people: Do they know how Bethlehem has been violated? Do they know how the shepherds' town (Bayt Sahur) has been abused?

Do they know how the Church of the Holy Sepulchre has been desecrated? Do they know how mosques and churches are plundered? Do they know that Christians and Muslims—women and children—are being killed by the taxes paid by U.S. citizens? While the payment of $18 million to the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Organization] is suspended, over $100 million is allocated to the Israeli settlement budget—a figure which is not reflected in the [U.S.] budgets.

We have the U.S. Department of State report on the violations of the human rights of the Palestinians. It is the report from the U.S. Department of State—not mine, not the United Nations', nor the Nonaligned Movement's report. I wonder how the U.S. Administration violates its law by continuing the payment of these billions to Israel—$3.4 billion in declared aid, while the secret aid is much more than that. It is admitted by the U.S. Department of State that Israel violates human rights. Nevertheless, this aid is not being suspended, thus violating the U.S. law on terrorism. On the contrary, the United States increases its military, diplomatic, media, economic, and material support. Therefore, Shamir does not want a solution because he feels that the U.S. Administration gives him the longest time possible for the termination of the intifadah. Every time he requests a six-month break he gets it. Meanwhile, the U.S. Government fools the world so as to prevent the convocation of an international conference. The peace it wants is one imposed on us. It is the peace of Dan Meridor who said we do not want to hold negotiations with the PLO because it wants the peace of the courageous.

What do they want then? Do they want the peace of the capitulationists? They will not find the Palestinian people to be capitulationist.

['Atwan] How do you assess the current U.S. position after all these frustrations? Is it due to the strength of the Israeli lobby?

['Arafat] One of the new wonders added to the world's seven wonders is the U.S. veto on the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, although the right to self-determination is a sacred right for all peoples. It is the first major article in the American Constitution. The right to self-determination is approved for 1,800 citizens in the Falklands but denied to six million Palestinians.

In 1977, the United States agreed with Egypt and the Soviet Union that a joint Arab delegation be formed with Palestinian participation through less senior members from the PLO. In other words, those members should not be PLO Executive Committee members. We chose, therefore, three Palestine National Council members holding U.S. citizenship. They were professors Edward Said, Ibrahim Abu Lughod, and Hatim al-Husayni. Now they [the Americans] say no to the PLO because Shamir does not agree. Whenever we talk to them on this subject they reiterate Shamir's rejection. I want to remind them that Eisenhower gave Israel, France, and Britain a 48-hour ultimatum to withdraw from the Suez Canal, Sinai, and Gaza, and they actually withdrew.

Where was the Israeli lobby at that time. Where was the Greek lobby when the Turks entered Cyprus: they

stopped the assistance to Turkey. When Tehran fell into the hands of the mullahs after the Khomeyni revolution they became in need of the Turkish base to face the USSR. So, they immediately returned all the aid which Kissinger had deprived Turkey of. Where is the Greek lobby? The lobby is the scarecrow which America shakes to its friends in the Arab region. They have influence, but we have greater influence.

We, as Arabs, have $250 billion in American banks. In 1991, America will be in need of the Arab oil more than any time in the past because the oil reserves in the North Sea and the American oil fields will become dry. Petroleum countries will leave OPEC. Hence, I say to the Arabs once again: It will be too late for repentance. God be my witness, I have communicated the message.

['Atwan] Have you not raised these issues with America? And if you have raised them, what is the American response?

['Arafat] We have presented everything. Today, I want to ask President Bush, his Secretary of State Baker, and the U.S. Congress: What is your reaction to the massacre in Rafah that is now continuing into the third consecutive day? On the first day, 27 students in an elementary school were wounded; on the second day three people were martyred and 25 were wounded; and today, Thursday, 8 February, 25 were wounded and one person was martyred. All this is happening because of a rumor saying that the origin of the driver of the bus that was attacked in Ismailia was from Rafah before having Egyptian nationality. This is cold-blooded killing planned by the state of killing. This is the state terrorism which I and former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz agreed to stop. The regular Israeli Army perpetrated the massacres in Rafah and elsewhere.

['Atwan] Have you anything to do with the Ismailia bus operation in which 11 persons, including nine Israelis, were killed?

['Arafat] We have nothing to do with it.

['Atwan] Why have they tried to link the PLO with this operation?

['Arafat] They tried this, but they found no connection whatsoever between the PLO and the operation. The U.S. official spokesman denied any connection between the PLO and the operation. Even Ahmad Jibril, who was accused of it, announced today that he has nothing to do with it.

['Atwan] Were you surprised by this operation?

['Arafat] Of course we were surprised. We have our opinion on such an operation: We oppose attacks against any civilians, be they Palestinian, Jewish, American, or European.

['Atwan] Do you believe that this operation was a response to Israeli intransigence?

['Arafat] They must understand one thing; that is, the Israeli and American negligence, the evasion from achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and the attempts to prolong the peace process will explode the region. The continuation of Israeli terrorism will cause reactions only God knows their extent, their source, and who controls them.

['Atwan] Faced with this Israeli intransigence, procrastination, and maneuvering will you continue to abide by your present stands calling for peace and negotiations?

['Arafat] I have stated and repeat that I will convene the PNC and will refer the issue to it. After this, the entire region will bear the consequences of any stand that will be adopted later. Why should we shoulder the burden alone? Let the United States pursue its procrastination on not holding the international conference, and let it continue to pamper Israel and pat it on the back.

I want to ask Baker and Shevardnadze who are currently meeting: What is the substitute to peace and the international conference? The substitute is war and violence, a war for which Sharon is planning. Sharon says he wants to occupy Jordan and more Arab territories, and expel the Palestinians. There is also Shamir who publicly states he wants to establish Greater Israel.

I want to ask the following: Why has the Middle East been the only region in the world where weapons have not been restricted? This region contains all types of weapons: chemical and nuclear weapons, and missiles, not to mention conventional weapons. Therefore, the substitute for peace is a war which will destroy everything. Is this what Shamr is planning for, and is this what President Bush wants?

Everybody must understand that Nelson Mandela was finally released, Namibia won its independence, and the African National Congress has become a legitimate organization. No one can check the wheels of history. How long can Shamir prevent the sun from shining? By trying to do so, he closes his eyes, and this makes him unable to see the course of history, civilization, or the law of life in the Middle East.

['Atwan] You recently spoke about pressures that are being brought to bear on the leader of the Palestinian revolution to resort to weapons in the intifadah. Can we describe the Ismailia bus operation as another type of these pressures?

['Arafat] I would like to tell you something. I do not know. However, there is no doubt that we will face pressures from all sides. We are facing financial pressures, and are currently facing a financial siege. We also are facing diplomatic pressures. Only last year, the United States used the veto at the UN Security Council six times against me and in Israel'e interest. Is this logical? Our people under occupation are bringing pressure to bear on us, and the free and honest men in the world are also pressuring us.

['Atwan] Is this why you still wear the khaki-colored uniform as you recently stated in Cairo?

['Arafat] I am not a chameleon so that I may change colors. It is still a battle I wage. In 1969, Dr Nabil Sha'th announced on our bahalf at the conference for championing peoples in Cairo that a democratic state must be established in which Muslims, Christians, and Jews would coexist. In 1974, I said at the United Nations: An olive branch in one hand and the gun in the other. In 1988, we proclaimed the Palestinian initiative. Therefore, we are following one course, that of the establishment of a just and comprerhensive peace in the region, the peace of the brave.

['Atwan] Abu-'Ammar, having carried the olive branch for a long time recently, do you not miss the gun?

['Arafat] Who said I had abandoned it? I am the commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution. My forces in Southern Lebanon confronted four Israeli raids a few days ago.

Imagine, 17 air raids have been launched on a radio station, the voice of the Palestinian revolution, completely destroying the station and resulting in the martyrdom of 42 persons, including a female radio engineer.

Did you hear any condemnation of the air raid on the radio station? Raids on a voice! Where is the freedom of expression talked about in America and the West? This is Israel to which the American taxpayer labors to pay billions of dollars annually. Every Israeli receives $30,000 annually from America. The richest princes in the world do not receive an annual sum of $30,000 as soon as they are born. As soon as an Israeli baby is born, it gets this sum from the American taxpayer so that its army can commit unbelievable acts against our people and children, against the freedom of expression, and against mosques and churches.

['Atwan] Why do you think that is so? And how can this picture be changed?

['Arafat] Regrettably, that is because of our Arab nation and the absence of a unified Arab stance to confront all these fateful challenges.

[Atwan] What is the story of "Qudsabad" you have been talking about recently?

['Arafat] We will call it [Jerusalem] "Qudsabad." Hopefully, they will pay for its liberation. Do you know how much they have paid Afghanistan so far?

['Atwan] We would like to know how much.

['Arafat] They paid $19.5 billion; $12.5 billion in cash and $7 billion worth of weapons and hardware. This is apart from the fighters allocations.

['Atwan] Where did you get these figures?

['Arafat] These are not my figures. They were mentioned by a U.S. report prepared by the Rand Corporation.

['Atwan] How much has the PLO been paid?

['Arafat] According to the same report, the PLO has been paid $2.1 billion in 20 years. This shows that what has been paid to Afghanistan in 1 year has been paid to the PLO in 25 years—do you believe that?.

This is all that has been paid for the liberation of Jerusalem, the first of the two kiblahs and third of the two holy mosques. We are waging successive battles, not in defense of ourselves only. In the 1973 war we fought along three fronts—the Syrian, the Egyptian, and the Lebanese—without assistance from others, as well as inside the occupied territories. In 1982, I waged the longest Arab-Israeli war and confronted three-quarters of the Israeli Army. This is in addition to the 1978 battle in Southern Lebanon which was led by Weizman, and which I also confronted alone.

['Atwan] Frankly, why did the Arab states fail to pay?

['Arafat] You ask them. The latest meeting of the eight-member committee was held in Tunis.

['Atwan] What do they want the PLO to do so as to pay?

['Arafat] By God, I do not know, Murphy (former U.S. assistant secretary of state) said Abu-'Ammar took financial measures which are not going to be implemented. (Former U.S. Ambassador) Vernon Walters said that the U.S. plan is to dry out the PLO financial resources.

['Atwan] Will this state of affairs persist?

['Arafat] We do our best so that it will not last. We thank the Arab countries which have paid their share, and we call on the other brothers who have made partial contributions, or have not yet settled their share, to pay their contribution, not to us but to this intifadah, which has engaged 70,000 Israeli soldiers in battle as Defense Minister Rabin has admitted, a force which represents 45 percent of the Israeli Army.

['Atwan] One notices that the PLO is dealing with the Soviet Jewish emigration calmly and cautiously. We did not hear about strong stands. There were only placatory stands toward the Soviet Union. Why?

['Arafat] We are in constant contact with our Soviet friends. We asked them to establish an intermediary station for the transportation of these emigrants who are leaving the Soviet Union. Facts have shown that 80 percent of Soviet Jews hesitate before leaving for Israel because they prefer to go to the United States, Canada, Australia, France, Norway, and other countries. We also asked the Soviets to issue passports to them so that they can return to the Soviet Union if they do not like it abroad.

They are also speaking about the right of return to Palestine for the Jews. There is no such right of return for the Jews to the homeland from which they had emigrated, or to any other place, even to the Arab countries.

This is what President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said. He said: We welcome the Arab Jews' return to their Arab countries.

['Atwan] Have the Soviets responded to these demands?

['Arafat] We are following up with them on this issue.

['Atwan] Recently, there was much talk about holding a PNC session. Is there any substance behind such talk?

['Arafat] The last PNC session was held 15 months ago. A PNC session should be held at the latest before the end of the first half of this year.

['Atwan] The old PNC, or a new PNC with new members?

['Arafat] Yes, a new PNC. A committee was formed to prepare for it, and it is carrying out its work.

['Atwan] Is there any truth to what is being said about the reduction in the number of its members?

['Arafat] The comittee will study all possibilities. Personally, I am against reducing the number of the PNC members. I opt for more representation, and for more democracy.

['Atwan] Who of the members of the Palestine National Salvation Front [PNSF] will return to the new PNC?

['Arafat] I do not recognize the PNSF. I recognize the groupings of anyone who is a PNC member, and all the factions that the PNC recognizes.

['Atwan] Will the Hamas Movement get several seats in the new PNC?

['Arafat] It is asking for more seats. At present, Hamas has six seats in the PNC, and two in the PLO Central Council. It has equal seats as the others in the Central Council. Fatah is the only one which has six seats. As for the other factions, each faction has two seats.

['Atwan] Has Hamas occupied these seats?

['Arafat] Yes.

['Atwan] What about its representation in the Executive Committee?

['Arafat] Hamas is not represented in the Executive Committee and it has the right to demand to be so.

['Atwan] Who, other than Hamas, asked for representation in the PNC?

['Arafat] The Islamic Jihad also asked to enter the PNC. This is everybody's right. Palestinian democracy is for everybody. We are proud of our democracy. All are equal before Palestinian law.

['Atwan] Do we expect that the results of the Palestinian peace initiative will be presented before the new PNC session?

['Arafat] Of course. I will submit my report and I expect a stormy discussion. I will present my resignation with the report. And the Council will either accept or reject it. This is democracy. I fear nothing. It will be left for the Council to decide whatever it wants in a democratic way and I will respect its decision.

['Atwan] Can we say that the Palestinian peace initiative has four more months to go?

['Arafat] No. The peace initiative will not stop. But, the program I presented and on whose basis the Council elected me will be submitted for a vote of confidence. The Council will either withdraw confidence from me or grant me confidence. The resignation will be with the report.

['Atwan] Are we witnessing the stage of Palestinian perestroyka? I have noticed sifting and transfers in the Palestinian diplomatic corps. I have also noticed a state of austerity and strict measures to prevent Palestinian officials or PLO guests from staying in Tunisian hotels even for those who want to pay expenses from their own pockets?

['Arafat] I am against using the expression "perestroyka" as used by HA'ARETZ. We are a revolution living in a continuous state of perestroyka. Because of the intifadah, the people in Eastern Europe took to the streets raising the victory signal and shouting intifadah, intifadah in Arabic. We always present the example. Our revolution is the most protracted one in contemporary history. Our revolution is always rejuvenating.

['Atwan] What about staying in hotels?

['Arafat] We avoided staying in hotels because of the financial siege imposed on us and to set an example of austerity. We are in the age of the intifadah.

['Atwan] We have noticed that there is a calm process of normalization between the PLO and the Syrian Government. Can you say that your meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in your headquarters in Tunis is a part of this process?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly, the participation of brother Faruq al- Shar' in the meetings of the intifadah committee at the Arab League headquarters and the talks I held with him will greatly help in boosting and rectifying the Palestinian-Syrian relations on the basis of the Palestinian resolutions laid down by the Palestine National Council.

['Atwan] Do Syrian officials show understanding of the Palestinian viewpoint and demands?

['Arafat] We hope so.

['Atwan] The Eastern Europe events have denied the Palestine question and friends who helped it in international forums. How do you feel about this loss and how big is it? How do view the future in these states as far as the the Palestine question is concerned?

['Arafat] These states used to have a special stand on Israel. The issue is not what took place there—which is an internal affair and part of peoples' movement toward liberalization—but the view of some of these states and the U.S. extortion exercised against them. This extortion links aid and cooperation with the IMF to the recognition of Israel and restoration of relations with it. This could be our major loss, but I want to say that we are holding contacts at the highest levels with these states and their new regimes.

A delegation came from Poland and held talks with us in Tunis. I received an invitation to visit Prague. My brother Faruq Qaddumi received an invitation to visit Berlin. We also have an invitation to visit Bulgaria.

['Atwan] After the end of the cold war and the Eastern Europe changes, how do you view the shape of future international struggle?

['Arafat] As the Yalta summit introduced the changes which followed World War II, the same role is played by the Malta summit after the cold war.

I ask my Arab nation to be united so as not to pay the price of the Malta summit as we paid the price of the Yalta summit.

Democratic Front Reports Anti-Israeli Operation

JN1402175890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1717 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has announced that one of its groups today attempted to infiltrate into northern Israel. The group, it added, clashed with an armored Israeli patrol near Marj 'Uyun in the security strip in southern Lebanon this morning.

Announcing this in Communique No. 1, the Front said battles between its fighters and Israeli forces were continuing early this afternoon.

PLO Asks Jordan To Host PCC Meeting in March

JN0802084690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8-9 Feb 90 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has officially requested Jordan to host a meeting of the Palestine Central Council (PCC) in Amman in March, according to Palestinian officials.

The request was made by PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya during a meeting with Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday.

The PLO was initially hoping to convene the PCC—an intermediary consultative body between the PLO leadership and the Palestine National Council (PNC)—on Feb. 28, but the date coincided with the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) summit scheduled to begin here on Feb. 24.

"Jordanian officials explained to the PLO that it would be practically difficult to hold the two meetings almost in the same period," a Palestinian official told the JORDAN TIMES.

He said that the PLO was now considering convening the PCC in the first week of March in Amman if "it is practically convenient for the Jordanian government."

"If not, the council meeting might take place in Baghdad," the official said.

The convening of the PCC in Amman would reflect the growing closeness between the two sides, especially over the Middle East peace process.

Jordan has strongly supported the PLO's efforts to assume a full-fledged role in all stages of the peace process and criticised attempts to exclude the organisation from negotiations.

"The only address we know is that of the PLO," His Majesty King Husayn told the JORDAN TIMES in an interview last month in reference to efforts to find "representatives of the Palestinian people."

The next PCC meeting is expected to be very significant as the PLO leadership is coming under mounting pressures to reassess its tactics in the peace process.

A PLO official said that the Jordanian government did not express any reservation over the idea of hosting the meeting but that the timing was "simply very impractical, especially that meeting halls and hotels would be reserved for the ACC summit."

The PLO had also to postpone a meeting of the Palestine National Fund, which was also scheduled to take place in Amman on Feb 25, in view of the ACC summit.

The PCC meeting would be the first high-level Palestinian meeting in Amman since the convening of the PNC here in 1984.

But unlike the 1984 PNC, which was boycotted by left-wing PLO factions, the PCC will be attended by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Palestinian Communist Party alongside Fatah and independents.

DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah, who is of Jordanian origin, and George Habash of the PFLP have not been back in Jordan since the 1970 civil war.

The two groups have expressed support for the Jordanian democratic experiment and the Kingdom's disengagement from the West Bank.

Last October, an official DFLP delegation, headed by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, met with Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim.

The unprecedented Jordanian-DFLP talks followed the latter's disengagement from its Jordanian wing, which established an independent Jordanian party.

In the lat two months many DFLP and PFLP members and officials, who were hitherto banned, visited Jordan.

In a recent interview with the Kuwait daily AL-WATAN, King Husayn did not dismiss the possibility of allowing Hawatimah and Habash to visit Jordan or even to regain their Jordanian passports.

"I cannot say that anything is impossible at any stage in the future... but if there were sincere intentions...this country has always been big enough for all its countrymen... I cannot say no to this question," the King said when he was asked if Hawatimah and Habash would be allowed back.

Jewish Emigration To Head Agenda

PM1402103590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Feb 90 pp 1, 2

[Zaki Shihab report: "Jawid Al-Ghusayn Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Immigration of Soviet Jews Heads PCC Agenda"]

[Text] London—A senior Palestinian official has confirmed that the Palestine Central Council [PCC] meeting scheduled to be held in the last third of February has been postponed until early March.

Jawid al-Ghusayn, member of the PLO Executive Committee and chairman of the Palestine National Fund, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the meeting was postponed because the date set for it coincided with the date set for the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] meeting in Amman.

Al-Ghusayn said that the immigration of Soviet Jews and Israeli plans to settle them [in the occupied territory] will top the agenda of the PCC meeting in Amman.

He added that the Palestinian leadership believes that the best way to combat the Jewish immigration lies in the adoption of a unified Arab stand and in using that same stand when addressing the states concerned, particularly the Soviet Union and the United States.

Al-Ghusayn pointed out that the Arab atmosphere is now much better than it was in the past for the promotion of Arab solidarity reflecting on the general Arab situation.

He added that the PCC will also discuss the current peace efforts and steps that could be taken in the face of Israeli intransigence, as well as the general political situation and world and Arab developments.

Al-Ghusayn said that the Palestine National Fund will meet in Amman approximately two days before the PCC meetings. The fund, he said, will discuss its work over the past period, aid for the intifadah from the resources and revenues available from Arab aid, and the need to hold contacts to explain the importance of continued support for the intifadah.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is expected to chair the PCC meetings in Amman. He will also meet with King Husayn and Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran and discuss with them means of tackling recent Middle East developments and peace efforts.

Other Agenda Items Discussed

JN1102090090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Feb 90 pp 1, 16

[By Nabil 'Amr in Amman]

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources expect the PLO Central Council, in its coming meetings, to review the grounds on which Palestinian peace moves were based during the past period and which came up against Israeli belligerence and the unserious U.S. stand on the peace march in the Middle East in general, and the Palestine question in particular.

These sources revealed to AL-DUSTUR that there is a conflict of opinion among some Palestinian leaders over the peace march. Currently, intense contacts are being held to rectify matters before the PLO Central Council meetings are held. The PLO Central Council might find itself forced to discuss convening the Palestine National Council—the highest authority in the PLO—to take new decisions befitting the current circumstances.

These sources said some Palestinian sides are not happy at the way the conflict with the Zionist enemy is being handled which is based on one-sided action, thus giving Israel more time to deal single-handedly with the intifadah.

These sources added that the decision to continue the intifadah until the realization of the legitimate national rights requires finding struggle alternatives after peaceful efforts failed, the aggressive Israeli intentions were revealed, and some attempts by the United States were uncovered to try and circumvent legitimate Palestinian representation and suggest that the Palestinian leadership has gone back on the PLO Central Council resolutions and the Palestinian peace initiative.

These sources clarified that the difference in opinion in the Palestinian arena is a positive phenomenon serving Palestinian goals. He affirmed that the meetings of the Central Council—considered to be the most important meetings—will discuss the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine in light of the Soviet affirmations not to change Moscow's policy towards the Palestine question and its adherence to the necessity of

holding the international peace conference—the best formula for solving this question and the entire Middle East problem.

These sources pointed out that the PLO Central Council, which will also discuss means of supporting the intifadah and reviewing the frameworks, departments, organs, and offices of the PLO, will soon also have to deal with the issue of Palestinian-Syrian relations and how to return this strategically important relationship to normal within the current political givens, one of which being the Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine.

The PLO Central Council will also discuss the Palestinian situation in the Lebanese arena particularly, and the critical Lebanese situation in general, and what form Palestinian contribution toward supporting Lebanese legitimacy and protecting Lebanon from fragmentation should take.

PLO Official Discusses PNC, Jewish Emigration

JN1102143490 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
9 Feb 90 p 23

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Barqawi] According to the statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee, the PLO Central Council will convene. When and how? During these meetings, will past Palestinian resolutions be reviewed, especially those issued by the Central Council in Baghdad on 15 October 1989?

[Ahmad] Yes, the Central Council will convene during the current month either in the Jordanian capital, Amman, or the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. The conferees will discuss the Palestinian leaderships's various moves to improve the performance of PLO institutions and offices—that is, to continue to develop and implement the administrative program—and the recent developments in the Palestine question. They will affirm the need to continue to implement resolutions, whether on the level of the Palestine National Council [PNC] or the PLO Central Council itself. I declare that there will be no retreat; in fact, the resolutions adopted earlier will be stressed because the atmosphere in which the last discussions took place, both by secretaries of factions and the Executive Committee, confirmed that it is imperative to be committed to the Central Council's resolutions, adhere to the Palestinian peace initiative without chasing after the mirage of other factions' initiatives, and stand firmly before attempts to circumvent the organization and the legitimacy of its representation of the Palestinian people in in any dialogue in which the Palestine question is discussed. This is one of the accepted facts that cannot be tampered with, either by the leadership, or the Executive Committee, or the Central Council itself, or any Palestinian structure. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barqawi] The dangers stemming from Soviet Jewish emigration are clear. Along with Shamir's statements on the need to establish Greater Israel, the head of the Knesset Immigration Committee believes that the current immigration is more important than the Six-Day War. The manager of the Bank of Israel is demanding expansion to absorb the new Jews.

A Soviet envoy came to Tunis and met with Palestinian leaders. I wonder, does the Kremlin sense the same dangers?

[Ahmad] I believe that Moscow has been subjected to blackmail by the United States and Israel. Before answering whether the Soviet Union senses the same danger that we do, we have to ask: Has an Arab delegation visited Moscow to discuss this topic with the Soviets?

We Arabs curse and curse, but they do what they want in the end. Accusing the Soviets is not the important issue. Why did we not approach them either as individuals or as a group? I declare that the Soviet Union is still a friend of ours which has supported the struggle of the Palestinian people. To hold it solely responsible is a very false accusation.

Washington put pressure on the Kremlin and blackmailed it with the right to emigration. When the Soviets responded to that under pressure of their internal circumstances, the United States shut its doors to Jewish immigration and opened a compulsory corridor beginning in Moscow and ending in Tel Aviv.

The Soviet Union is partly responsible for the problem. It is our duty, however, to present proposals to prevent the continuing immigration. We in the PLO presented the Soviet envoy with a memorandum containing our proposals. A delegation will travel to Moscow to discuss these proposals. The Arab nation must make a contribution, whether to reach an understanding with Moscow or put pressure on Washington. As for the recent concentrated campaign to curse the Soviets which we notice is carried out by known sides in our region—what about Israel's allies? We should understand the problem from all angles and not serve the Zionist scheme.

[Al-Barqawi] Some Arab, and even Palestinian, voices were raised to say that there is a deal between the Soviet Union and the United States. PLO Executive Committee member Abu-'Ali Mustafa said it. So did Dr. Muhammad al-Farra, assistant secretary general for Palestinian Affairs in the Arab League. There are also two statements issued simultaneously in Moscow and Washington asking Israel not to settle immigrants in the territories occupied in 1967. Does this have any significance?

[Ahmad] There definitely is coordination between the two superpowers. We see their two statements as if someone had sprinkled salt on a wound.

The answers we get to the proposals we made to the Soviets will be the measure of the Kremlin's true stand on stopping the direct line between Moscow and Tel Aviv, opening the possibility of a return of these immigrants, and granting them passports that are valid for a long time, especially since Gorbachev himself has allowed many Jewish families to return from the United States.

We ought to be aware of all developments. Despite the fact that the Soviet Union is a friendly country, it is our duty to explain the dangers facing us. It is also our duty to understand that new forces have cropped up at the present time under perestroyka and glasnost that were previously hidden. These forces started employing their relations and potentials in service of the Zionist scheme. These forces are present within the Communist Party itself and within the various departments of some authoritative circles. Despite this, there are other friendly forces still faithful to their principles, on which Arab-Soviet relations were built. We have to continue contacts with them and reveal to them the truth about the dangers stemming from the immigration and what the Palestinian people are being subjected to in the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barqawi] I have one last question which was second in line, but since the discussion went off in another direction, it now comes last.

What about the PNC? Will it be restructured soon and how? Will it review the current balance of power and when will it convene?

[Ahmad] It is not necessary to restructure the PNC in haste. We still have a lot of time ahead of us. When it is restructured, it will convene in the second half of 1990.

The convening of the PNC is not a goal in itself, though defining the characteristics of Palestinian policy in the coming stage is. Therefore, it will be restructured when the Palestinian leadership sees a great need for it.

With regard to the restructuring of the PNC, we always hear about shifts in the balance of power among the factions. However, what is more important is to reduce its membership to make it capable of setting programs and plans that will help the leadership. The current structure and number of members does not aid constructive discussion.

Concerning the balance of power, this must be overcome by the Palestinians. We are at a stage where our most important goal is not to seek small gains. This stage is much greater in its givens and requirements. What is required is for the PNC to be formed from among people who will help push Palestinian action.

Speaker Interviewed on Formation of New PNC

PM0602164190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Feb 90 p 8

[Telephone interview with PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih by Zaki Shihab; date, place not given]

[Text] [Shihab] What are the results of the meetings of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis regarding the question of holding a new session of the Palestine National Council [PNC]?

[Al-Sa'ih] What I want to say is that the mandate of the PNC in its current term is at an end. So no more ordinary sessions will be held. A committee has been formed and entrusted with the task of forming a new Council. It is holding meetings and deliberations with the aim of laying the foundations of the new Council.

[Shihab] What has the committee achieved in its work so far?

[Al-Sa'ih] It has drawn no final conclusions yet. Some proposals urge an increase in the number of Council members while others urge a reduction in the number of Council members.

[Shihab] Of whom does the committee consist?

[Al-Sa'ih] All the Palestinian factions under the PLO canopy are represented in the committee, which also includes some Executive Committee members, some independent figures, and some representatives of popular organizations.

[Shihab] What is the line most suited to the current phase?

[Al-Sa'ih] The appropriate approach at present is to have nominations from the points where Palestinian people are present and reduce the number of Council members. What is important is quality not quantity. As I have already said, we have reached no conclusions yet.

[Shihab] Does that mean that the seat allotment ratios for the various organizations will be reconsidered when it comes to appointing members to the new PNC?

[Al-Sa'ih] When the current ratios were made it was noticed that the more active an organization was, the more seats it got, but the activities of some of these organizations have decreased and those of other organizations have increased. That must be taken into consideration. Many, including independent figures, will object because they will say that the PNC belongs to the Palestinian people and that the majority of the Palestinian people have not joined any factions and are independent in their struggle in that they do not belong to any organization but support the PLO and its leadership. Another opinion is that the organizations are effective and are active and do work. Sometimes we even receive letters from North America or South America saying that certain social organizations and foundations have elected their own representatives.

[Shihab] When will the committee complete its work?

[Al-Sa'ih] That depends on Palestinian developments. As a leadership we are now more preoccupied with the question of the immigration of Soviet Jews than any other issue. We believe that matter is important and

cannot wait. There is also the situation in Lebanon and its repercussions. Once these matters are resolved we would be able to complete our work regarding the PNC within two or three months.

[Shihab] You have said that there are calls for more members and calls for fewer members. What figures have been mentioned?

[Al-Sa'ih] Some want the members to be increase to 600 and others want them reduced to 150 members. At present there are 452 PNC members.

PLO Official Blames Shamir for Bus Incident

NC1302125290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 13 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani has stressed that the role of President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government and people in the Palestinian issue is a leading, constant, and firm one. He added that nothing has or will change because Egypt's security is not limited to the regional level but extends to the pan-Arab level and is directly linked to the security of Palestine.

In an interview with MENA, al-Surani said that Egypt's national security—whether pharonic or Arab Egypt—cannot be secured as long as there are thieves sowing corruption on Palestine's land because Palestine is Egypt's corridor. He stressed that Egypt can never abandon Palestine because the entire Egyptian people, army, and leadership have stood with Palestine throughout history and they are concerned with its security which is linked to that of Egypt.

He said that peace and security in the region cannot be achieved except by eliminating the injustice that has been inflicted on the Palestinian people and fulfilling their legitimate hopes of returning to their lands, self-determination, establishing their independent state, and ending Israeli terrorism and settlement.

Al-Surani stressed that the Israeli tourist bus incident has not caused a crack in Egyptian-Palestinian relations at all, adding that this crack exists only in the minds of the self-deluded who dream of bringing this about because official and popular relations between Egypt and Palestine are profound and firm and that all the Egyptian people and their leadership are strongly behind the Palestinian people and their issue.

Jamal al-Surani denied any Palestinian link with the tourist bus which was carrying a group of Israeli tourists. He said that investigations into the incident are continuing and it has not been proved that it was perpetrated by Palestinians. He expressed his belief that those who did it have nothing to do with the Palestinians.

He went on to say that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir alone bears responsibility for the blood of the bus victims because he is closing all the roads leading to peace and that this incident should not be a surprise because the expansionist-colonialist Shamir is impeding the peace process as much as he can.

He said that this incident is a blow to peace efforts and it is the responsibility of Shamir who is denying the Palestinian and Arab peoples their right to self-determination. He stressed that there will be no peace as long as Israeli officials have this mentality and are receiving full support from the United States.

He added that there is no justification for involving Egypt in the bus incident. He then expressed hope of returning to Palestine and of praying in its mosques and churches no matter how long this takes. He also said that the killers cannot remain in their position indefinitely and that the entire world will stand with the Palestinians.

Al-Surani denied reports that the Palestinians would abandon the Cairo declaration and said: We are committed to the Cairo declaration.

Egypt

Mubarak Seeks International Plan on Emigration

JN1502105690 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
13 Feb 90 p 1

[By Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] Diplomatic circles have disclosed to AL-SHA'B the contents of the message President Husni Mubarak sent to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev through Dr Usamah al-Baz, who began a visit to Moscow Sunday [11 February]. Mubarak highlighted the need for an international plan to prevent settlement of Jews in the occupied territories and for this plan to be implemented through Soviet-European coordination. The message stresses that the Soviet Union should be the primary and most effective party to this plan through the adoption of some measure by the Soviet Government to prevent the emigrants from settling in the occupied territories.

Mubarak said in the message that it is possible to reach a certain agreement in this respect through Soviet-Israeli contacts. The message uncovers the dimensions of the Israeli scheme to settle Jews and the link between this scheme and both the peace process and the proposal for initiating a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

According to the sources, Dr al-Baz carried to Moscow a lengthy report by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on the Israeli dimension of the settlement operation. The report focuses on Israel's strategic goals of this settlement—namely, expelling the Palestinians from the occupied territories to Jordan and other Arab countries in order to build Israeli settlements for immigrants on these territories. The report refers to security barriers Israel is trying to establish after this settlement plan has been implemented.

Mubarak's message pointed out the difficulty of diplomatic contacts with Israel achieving any significant results. He demanded that the international plan be supported by strong and deterrent measures to prevent Israel from settling Jews in the occupied territories.

The sources said Dr al-Baz discussed with the Soviet officials aspects of bilateral relations, especially economic ties and the extent of possible assistance to the Arab Cooperation Council.

Muslim Brotherhood Condemns Jewish Emigration

JN1502112290 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
13 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood has sharply condemned Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to Palestine. It said the Soviet Union exposed its ugly face and enmity to the Arabs and Muslims with the Azerbaijan massacres and the emigration of Jews to the occupied territories.

In a statement issued Saturday [10 February], the Muslim Brotherhood stressed that the Islamic nation is subject to grave dangers and that Arab and Muslim leaders should act swiftly to avoid these dangers.

The movement urged Egyptian papers to inform the people of what is really going on around them instead of distorting the image of nationalist symbols.

Editor Says 'Israeli Extremism' Behind Bus Attack

JN1402204290 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic
11 Feb 90 pp 5-7

[Article by editor in chief Editor Salah Muntasir: "A Plot Along the Path of Peace"]

[Excerpts] Who did it? By nature, there dwells within each of us a Sherlock Holmes who tries to find answers to mysterious questions. The moment I heard about the criminal attack on the Israeli tour bus on the Ismailia-Cairo road, my suspicions turned immediately to the Mosad, or the Israeli Intelligence Service. Even when it was said that the culprits were Palestinians, I could not completely rule out a possible link between them and Israeli intelligence. I might have been wrong in my thinking, but in all criteria I was confident that if anyone stood to benefit from the crime, it would be Israeli extremism. And because the question one always asks when attempting to resolve the mystery of any crime is who stands to benefit, the compass of my suspicions many times pointed toward Israel.

During a dialogue, one of the participants asked me: But there is—as you know—Egypt's [Revolution] Organization, which had a previous experience with the Israelis. Why did you exclude it from the list of perpetrators? I replied immediately: I do not think this type of crimes is meditated or planned by Egyptians. Those assailed in previous incidents were diplomats or politicians and the perpetrators thought that attacking them would influence relations with Israel. But this time, those attacked were ordinary tourists who had nothing to do with politics or battles of struggle. Men, women, and children came in a tour bus for recreation. They came without weapons or bodyguards or the least idea of a possible attack on them. Thousands came before them. Where is the bravery, then, in carrying out this sudden attack on them? With a bomb and a machinegun anyone can do what the culprits did. It is not bravery, humanism, or shrewd planning to say that those who did it have carried out a fedayeen act which deserves congratulations.

The result of what happened was completely the opposite. No voice was raised in the world saying that it was bravery. There was a sweeping unanimity that it was depravity. No person's conscience could say they were fedayeen, but there was concord that they were terrorists, criminals, and butchers.

But why? Behind any crime, regardless of the signs of vileness and depravity in it, lies some benefit that is seen by its perpetrator. What is then the benefit that can be gained from the crime of the attack on the tourists' bus?

Is it in the interest of the Arab Palestinian conflict? On the contrary, the first thing PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat did was issue a statement in which he condemned the incident and absolved himself from it. What is the benefit of placing the PLO, which leads the Palestinian struggle, in a situation in which it has to apologize for a crime it has nothing to do with?

Does this operation help the children of stones in their steadfast intifadah that has been going on for 27 months? On the contrary, the strength of those children and youths lies in keeping to their peaceful methods in which they do not use more than stones and bricks—the oldest weapons used by mankind—in their confrontation with the most advanced artillery, bombs, and gases—not to mention other bestial methods. Throughout the past months, the strength of those youths lay in asserting their right to confront the occupation with their unique methods and in abiding by the rules of the strugglers who do not mix terrorism with sacrifice. And here comes this mean and cowardly crime to shroud the children's struggle, manhood, sacrifice, bravery, strength, commitment, valor, and enthusiasm. What did those heroic children do to deserve what two, three, or more people have done to stain their heroic action?

Will this crime give momentum to peace efforts that have been proceeding with difficulty for months and which were frozen until there was a hope for holding a meeting soon among the foreign ministers of the United States, Egypt, and Israel? I do not say that a solution is imminent. However, at least this will further expose Shamir and reemphasize that he takes pills to prevent a solution [as published]. The bus crime seems to be his precious opportunity to escape in a way that lets him avoid the condemnation of American, European, and world public opinion and will find people who say: Shamir is excused. Let him forget the pains of what happened. Therefore, what was, and what will be, the benefit?

I have tried to find one positive result of the crime but I found nothing. I only found a plot against what honest Arabs and Palestinians are trying to achieve. It is a plot against the PLO and the image of the state through which it wants to deal with the world and wants the world to deal with.

It is a plot against Egypt's peace efforts—a long path filled with thorns, mines, daggers, and plots. It is a plot against the heroes of the West Bank, Bayt Sahur, Gaza, Nazareth, and all those who have been holding fast for 27 months. It is a plot against the world sympathy won by those heroes as well as the large-scale support won by the PLO.

It is a plot against Yasir 'Arafat, the only head of state in the world who is forced to spend his life flying from one country to another hoping for a homeland in which to raise the flag of his country.

It is a plot against Husni Mubarak, against every Egyptian, and against every Arab. What more is required from Egypt than what it has done and what it is doing? What is the exact purpose of those who committed this crime and attempted to tarnish the image of stability and security in Egypt and to undermine its reputation for tourism? It is as if those people do not want to see Egypt's tourism recover and provide a good income for Egypt. [passage omitted]

Regardless of our reactions, we have to attach the appropriate significance to the crime—or the plot. First, we have to know that this kind of crime, whatever its brutal image might be, is something that happens all over the world; and the fact that it happens is not a yardstick or criterion on which to base the capability and efficiency of the security forces.

The capability and efficiency of the Egyptian security forces can be measured by the quick way they rushed to the scene which enabled them to find the car which was used in the accident, and their ability few hours later to find the first clues which led them to the suspects.

The capability and efficiency of the Egyptian security should be considered in light of their work and movement in daylight before the whole world without concealing their activities through any censorship decisions.

The capability and efficiency of the Egyptian security should be considered in light of the fact that they were not embarrassed to announce the possibility of a connection between the bus driver and the killers without trying to play down the effects of such a connection.

Second, we should not exaggerate or magnify the volume of the plot to the extent of making it a phenomenon which reflects unstability or insecurity in the Egyptian streets. For such crimes have taken place in Israel, the United States, and elsewhere. Perhaps there has been such reaction to this crime because it is unfamiliar in Egypt. This is, in fact, a testimony in favor of Egypt, its stability, and security. Such a crime and other crimes will not affect the security and stability that Egypt enjoys.

Third, we should also not exaggerate the effects of this crime and make it an obstacle in the way of peace. If the aim of this plot is to disturb peace efforts, the practical response should be confirmation that this plot has failed to achieve this aim. Whereas if we surrender, as Israel is trying to, and block the way, then this would clearly mean that the crime has achieved its aims. And in this manner, a unilateral crime will have defeated international efforts.

Fourth, while we denounce this aggression on a peaceful vehicle holding tourists, we also denounce what happens to the Palestinians inside the occupied territories at the hands of the Israeli authorities; we denounce the aggression against the legitimate rights of this people; we also denounce the Israeli leadership's violations against peace efforts; and moreover, we say that Israel is the prime instigator for all the extremist, terrorist, and violent conspiracies.

Fifth, while we stand amid the rubble and the moans of the victims, we can never ignore the humanitarian and civilized behavior adopted by Egypt. The Egyptians have donated their blood for the sake of Israelis; all the hospitals near the accident announced the utmost state of emergency; and the Egyptian doctors brushed aside all the psychological barriers in order to save the injured. This was the image of Egypt: civilization, humanity, morals and nobility.

The real challenge Egypt has faced in saving the lives of the injured is, in return, the same one Israel is facing to save peace.

It is natural, if we say that it is a conspiracy against peace, that we should ask who the beneficiary is in order to discover the criminal.

If I have directed my doubts and speculations, as many people have, toward Israel, by virtue of its being the first beneficiary if it exploits the opportunity and blocks the pathway of peace, I will scarcely be exceeding limits if I follow the example of others by saying—when the ways leading to peace are closed—that it really is Israel. Though it might not be the doer, it is certainly an abettor who incited; and the inciter's felony is no less harmful than that of the actual criminal.

Columnist Urges Discontinuation of Israeli Tourism

JN1102146990 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Feb 90 p 11

["Word of love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] The extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane has issued threats against Egyptian tourists visiting Israel. Since Egyptians, thank God, do not go to Israel anyway, the threat is academic. For his part, Jewish bigot Sharon has threatened to discontinue Israeli tourism to Egypt. I wish he would, since we have nothing to lose. Indeed, we stand to lose from the continued flow of Israeli tourists, who are thrifty and suspect.

Israel is the last place an Egyptian tourist with money to spare thinks of visiting. Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Cyprus, Greece, and the Riviera are more likely destinations. He will never contemplate visiting Israel. For one thing, it is far too expensive—more so than any place he may think of. A tourist looks for tranquillity and cleanliness—neither of which Israel provides. And, last but not least, what Egyptian will go to Israel when he knows that the gangs of Kahane are waiting to kill him?

An Israeli tourist carries counterfeit dollars, drugs, and diseases with him—not to mention Mosad operatives who come to incite sedition. Usually tight-fisted, the Israeli tourist sometimes, dishonestly and unscrupulously, takes more than he gives. To take other people's money, no matter how crookedly, is a Jewish creed. Beyond that, the mere presence of Israeli tourists strains Egypt's security services. We are not saying that they should be assassinated. But on grounds of national security, we would be better off with fewer Israeli tourists. It falls within the jurisdiction of every nation to grant or withhold a visa as it sees fit.

Israel has raised a fuss over the bus affair although the whole world has testifed to the civilized fashion in which Egypt handled the incident. Egypt has stated that it condemns the murder of any human being on its soil, viewing it as a violation of its sovereignty. No effort was spared to save the wounded in the bus attack. Toward that end Egyptians came forward with blood donations. After all, they are human beings and we were dutybound to save their lives. It seems, however, that Israel is ruled by the mentality of the Jewish merchant Shylock. It is in their blood and they cannot help it. They are making capital on the incident. They are even out to capitalize on the sympathy shown by Egypt for the victims of the attack.

No place in the world is spared assassinations, and murders occur in Israel itself. Governments cannot realistically be held responsible for such incidents on their soil. Nor can any government be expected to prevent them before they occur. The duty of the police is to try to find the culprits and see to the implementation of due process. Egyptian police have done virtual miracles, and in the end will catch the killers. In our eyes, anyone who kills a human being, wherever he comes from, is a murderer and not a hero. The true arena for heroism is not here; it is in the occupied land where resistance belongs. It is legitimate to resist occupation, but to kill civilians on other peoples' territory is a crime against both the victim and the owners of the land themselves.

Columnist Criticizes Anti-PLO Remarks

JN1402194290 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 13 Feb 90 p 7

[Article by Salah 'Isa: "What a Disgrace for Posterity"]

[Text] I have not found one logical justification for the ugly terrorist attack launched by the official Egyptian papers early this week on Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

I found no single convincing reason why the writers of these papers described the statement issued by the PLO leadership on the tourist bus incident on the Cairo-Ismailia highway as "weak," "ineffectual," and "unsubstantial" merely because it said that "the incident should be viewed in a broad sense taking into consideration events in the occupied territories, and not as a separate incident—especially since hundreds of Palestinians are being killed or wounded by Israeli officials every day."

I am too ashamed to face posterity because an Egyptian journalist has written an article expressing astonishment and pain that Yasir 'Arafat was not moved by what happened, did not instantly fly to Cairo to declare to the entire world his personal condemnation, and that of the Palestinian people, of this criminal act, and to express

profound regret to the Egyptian people for what Palestinian terrorists committed against them; and that he did not issue a statement in his own voice condemning what the "pained" journalist has described as a violation of Egyptian sovereignty, and becuase 'Arafat did not declare his determination to help the Egyptian security authorities uncover the Palestinian terrorists who committed this crime against the Egyptian people!

This is a more case of "meek" nonsense than ineffectual or weak nonsense. The official Egyptian press plays the same tune played by the "non-terrorist" Israeli officials and, consciously or unconsciously, suppports their view that Egypt is responsible for the incident. Otherwise, the official Egyptian press would not have trembled and been driven by fear of our Israeli lords' anger quickly to disclaim responsibility and blame the Palestinians, even going so far as to urge the Palestinian leader to fly instantly to Cairo and apologize to the Egyptian people and join the state security investigation bureau in looking for the terrorists.

It must be something other than coyness that has prevented these journalists from urging Yasir 'Arafat to fly to Tel Aviv to apologize to Shamir and join the Mosad to help apprehend the Palestinian "terrorists" who are leading the intifadah in the occupied territories.

Those who care for Egypt are the ones who, at times of crisis, enjoy the clear vision and courage to behave and write in a manner maintaining the dignity of the homeland and the people. If they are afflicted with utter blindness, let them favor us with their silence—that would be the bravest thing they could do.

If Egypt, as a state, is responsible for the tourist bus incident, this is true only as much as it is responsible for the death of a tourist in a road accident, or as the result of an argument with an Egyptian citizen or another tourist that ends with one killing the other.

All that Egypt is required to do is take the normal and reasonable measures to prevent the recurrence of the incident and to search for the culprits. This is so they can be brought to court for a judge to hear their motives, listen to their defense, and take into account all the circumstances that prompt one man to kill another man whom he does not know and with whom he has no personal feud. The only disagreement between the two is that one of them has stolen the homeland of the other, seized what he has inherited from his grandfathers, made him homeless, deprived him of a passport, and kept him from being buried in his land where he can feel the warmth of the bones of his fathers, grandfathers, and grandchildren.

No single aspect of the tourist bus incident was aimed against the Egyptian people. The perpetrators, whether Palestinians or non-Palestinians, were careful not to allow any Egyptian to be scratched. They even asked the Egyptian passengers to leave the bus before shooting a single bullet. The Egyptian people did something similar to what the perpetrators of the bus incident did when their land was occupied and when all negotiations failed to retrieve their legitimate rights.

What harms the Egyptian state and people and what calls for an apology are the unsubstantial, weak, and ineffectual remarks that disgrace the dignity of everyone of us. The essence of these remarks, which have been made by our own writers, is to change the name of the country from the Arab Republic of Egypt to apologetic Republic of Egypt!

Those who insist on reminding Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] of what the current Egyptian Government has done for the Palestinian cause should remember that this was the man who terminated Egypt's Arab isolation and that had it not been for his 1983 initiative of visiting Cairo, Egypt would not have returned to the Arab fold. They should also remember that had it not been for his relations with Egypt, Egypt's Middle East policy would not have been given Arab and international legitimacy.

Those with delicate hearts who are saddened by attacks on civilians and constantly use the term "terrorism" should give up their satanic game in which they reshuffle the cards and terms for hostile purposes. They should remember that Israel is a military community built by professional terrorists, and that there is not one member of this community who has not carried arms at one time and has not killed at least one Arab or one Palestinian.

Those urging Cairo from home or abroad to twist 'Arafat's arm, using the bus attack or some other pretext, and threaten him with the revival of the "Jordanian option," should give up this professional evil after this man took on his shoulders—before his people, nation and history—the responsibility of making the greatest contribution to facilitating peace, while their good offices failed to convince the Tel Aviv terrorists to stop demanding more concessions.

We hope that those who advised 'Arafat to join the state security investigation bureau and take part in looking for the "terrorists" apply the same advice to themselves and join the investigation bureau themselves, if they have not already done so, in order to take part in the search for an Israeli drug trafficker named Yusuf Tahhan who escaped from an Egyptian prison after receiving the death sentence and for whom nobody is searching, and on whose behalf nobody asked his country to apologize for the real act of terrorism he committed against the Egyptian people.

O history, let me conceal my face from you because I am reading what they are writing.

Seminar on Egyptian-Iraqi Ties Opens in Cairo

NC1402210190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—The Al-Zaqaziq University Faculty of Arts, the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education, and the Arab Historians Association are

sponsoring a three-day seminar on Egyptian-Iraqi relations in Cairo which opened today. [passage omitted] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, addressed a message to the seminar which Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Sami Haybah read.

In his message, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egyptian-Iraqi relations have become too strong to be affected by temporary crises. Both countries' political leaderships are careful to maintain and consolidate these relations, which are based on integration and cooperation and which represent a major pillar of joint Arab work.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egyptian-Iraqi relations will be further boosted by cooperation within the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. The ACC, he said, is a step in the right direction and a timely way of coping with international developments, particularly the increased tendency to establish large economic constellations.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid noted that ACC countries have signed many agreements covering such topics as education, the media, culture, sciences, technology, data and documents exchange, youth, sports, and economy. Agreements aimed at creating a common Arab market by liberating the movement of individuals, goods, services, and capital among the ACC countries were also signed. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid particularly praised the overland transport company Al-Jisr al-'Arabi for its services in linking Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq. [passage omitted]

Security Forces Detain 'Extremists' in 'Ayn Shams

JN1402213690 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 13 Feb 90 p 7

[Excerpt] The 'Ayn Shams security forces yesterday detained 19 extremists in the 'Ayn Shams area within campaigns carried out by the security forces to arrest the leader of the extremist group who is responsible for the attack on Colonel Rif'at al-Shafi' on 30 January. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Moscow Visit Set for 19 Mar

NC1402203790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2012 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Moscow, 14 Feb (MENA)—MENA has learned that President Husni Mubarak's expected visit to the USSR will take place on 19 March and will last three days.

It should be noted that President's Mubarak visit was among the issues which Dr Usamah al-Baz, first foreign ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, discussed with Soviet officials when he visited Moscow.

'Abd-al-Majid Confers With Soviet Ambassador

NC1402180490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received the Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev today. Following the meeting, the ambassador said that he briefed 'Abd-al-Majid on the outcome of the recent Moscow talks between the Soviet foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state.

In his statement, the Soviet ambassador stressed his country's support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Regarding the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, the ambassador said that his country cannot take any measures to stop this immigration "because we have adopted a decision allowing for the freedom of all nationalities to emigrate from the Soviet Union." He explained that the Soviet Union has strongly denounced Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's statements and the activities aimed at settling the immigrants in the occupied Arab territories.

The Soviet ambassador said that the United Nations must issue a clear-cut resolution rejecting the Israeli authorities' attempts to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories. He also stated that Israel must adhere to international law, including the 1949 treaty [not further indentified].

Soviet Economy Official Arrives 15 Feb

NC1502123890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1137 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Vladimir Mordvinov, Soviet deputy minister of foreign economic relations, arrived in Cairo this morning. He is leading a delegation on a 4-day visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid Meets Belgian Minister

NC1402174490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1527 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—Belgian Minister of External Trade Robert Urbain met with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today. Afterward, the Belgian minister said his country supports Egypt's peace efforts in the Middle East and asserted that his country is eager for the success of these efforts.

He emphasized that Belgium supports Egypt in its negotiations with the IMF, noting that Egypt is playing an important role in consolidating the peace efforts in view of its ties with the parties to the conflict. He remarked that President Mubarak's visit to Belgium last March enhanced Egyptian-Belgian relations. He said that he discussed prospects of setting up joint projects to support the public and private sectors with Egyptian officials.

Concluding his statement, he stressed that the rapprochement between East and West Europe will not affect the cooperation between the EC and the developing countries.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Leaves Cairo

NC1402182390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah left Cairo after a visit lasting several days. During his visit, he met with President Husni Mubarak and handed him a message from Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, saw him off at the airport.

Earlier Dr 'Abd-al-Majid gave a luncheon in honor of the Bahraini Foreign Minister and Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi. They discussed current Arab issues and Egypt's relations with Bahrain and Libya during the luncheon.

YAR Foreign Minister Arrives 15 Feb

NC1502123290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Yemeni Arab Republic deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Cairo this morning. He will meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, before they both leave for Baghdad later this afternoon to attend the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] foreign ministers meeting scheduled to begin in Baghdad tomorrow. This meeting will mark the first anniversry of the founding of the ACC.

Meets With 'Abd-al-Majid

NC1502134090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, conferred here this afternoon with 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister in the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], who made a stopover in Cairo today en route to Baghdad. The discussion during the meeting centered on current Arab affairs as well as coordination between the two countries on the various issues of mutual interest.

The two officials also discussed the topics on the agenda of the Arab Cooperation Council foreign ministers meeting, which will be held on Friday in Baghdad. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid and al-Iryani are scheduled to leave later today for Baghdad to attend the meeting.

Washington Ambassador Signs Electricity Loan

JN0502072090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 Feb 90 pp 1, 2

[By Huda Tawfiq]

[Text] Washington—'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Ridi, Egyptian ambassador in Washington, and the World Bank have signed a $165 million loan to boost by 1,000 megawatt the capacity of the Damietta electricity project. Also contributing to the financing will be the African Development Bank with $124 million, the Arab Fund with $123 million, the European Investment Bank with $57 million, and the Islamic Development Bank with $15 million. The loan, carrying a 7.65 percent interest rate, is to be repaid over 20 years with a five-year grace period.

Mauritania

Foreign Minister, OAU Official Interviewed

NC1202175690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1104 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Feb (MENA)—Mauritanian Foreign Minister Cheikh Baba heads his country's delegation to the meetings of the Coordination Committee for the Liberation of Africa. He has disclosed that the only mediation efforts currently taking place to resolve the Mauritanian-Senegalese dispute are those of current OAU Chairman President Husni Mubarak.

In an interview with MENA, he emphasized that the problem is complicated because Senegal raises the border issue, and Mauritania does not consider it a basic point of the dispute. He said: In Mauritania, we consider the border issue a fabricated one that has nothing to do with this dispute. Therefore, we reject discussing it as a basic issue. He noted that the dispute is about the Mauritanians evicted from Senegal and said that this is the real issue that must be resolved for any settlement between the two countries.

Replying to a question on what basis Mauritania is willing to end the dispute, he affirmed that restoring the Mauritanian citizens' assets and property, guaranteeing security and safety for Mauritanians still residing in Senegal, and compensating those who left their property behind during the incidents are the bases for solving the problem.

He pointed out that there is no problem regarding the Senegal River, which still marks the border between the two countries. He noted that there are several projects to utilize the river. On the likelihood of a meeting between the Senegalese foreign minister and him on the sidelines of the Cairo meetings, he said he is not sure whether such a meeting will be held.

For his part, OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmad Salim said his frequent visits to Mauritania and Senegal served as a fact-finding mission to consolidate the OAU's efforts under the current leader, President Husni

Mubarak, to solve the dispute between the two countries. In his statement to MENA, he noted that the Mauritanian, Senegalese, and Egyptian foreign ministers are pursuing these efforts, and the OAU is on the right track in this respect.

The OAU secretary general expressed his belief that by being patient and persevering and by pursuing these efforts, the desired goal, which is solving this problem in order to develop the two countries' resources, may be reached.

Official Returns From Drought Committee Meeting

AB1002145590 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Text] Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Lemine Ould Ndiayane, permanent secretary of the Military Committee for National Salvation [MCNS], returned to Nouakchott yesterday frm Guinea-Bissau where he represented Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the MCNS and head of state, at the ninth summit of the heads of state of the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel [ICDCS]. The ICDCS meeting was held on 8 and 9 February 1990 in Bissau. During this trip, the permanent secretary of the MCNS also went to Banjul where he delivered a message from Col Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the MCNS and head of state, to his brother and friend Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, president of the Republic of Gambia. In a statement to the MAURITANIAN NEWS AGENCY, the MCNS permanent secretary said that the Bissau summit made important decisions aimed at bolstering cooperation among the Sahel countries and contributing to the fight against environmental degradation at the level of the subregion.

The permanent secretary also thanked the Guinea-Bissau people and government for the warm and brotherly welcome given him and his delegation during their stay in Bissau. The MCNS permanent secretary was accompanied on his trip by an important delegation including, in particular, Rural Development Minister Hamoud Ould Ely and Dr Mohamed Sidya Ould Bah, commissioner for food security.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Says Southern Security 'Satisfactory'

EA1202083090 Khartoum SUNA in English 1712 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum 11 Feb (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir has reaffirmed the security situation in the southern region is satisfactory, said Minister of Culture and Information 'Ali Muhammad Shummu. Shummu said here today Gen al-Bashir informed cabinet meeting on the security situation in the country following his visit to Juba, capital of Equatoria Region yesterday.

Al-Bashir on New Political Organization Measures

EA0802214990 Khartoun SUNA in French 1512 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Al-Manaqil, Sudan, 7 Feb (SUNA)—General 'Umar Hassan al-Bashir has announced that the (?measures) relating to the formation of the new Sudanese political organization are almost complete. In a speech he delivered before a meeting organized at Al-Manaqil town, the leader of the revolution declared that all the Sudanese citizens would participate in that organization.

He also added that the details of the form of the political organization would be sudmitted to the popular committees of the country's assembly for study.

The leader of the Revolution Command Council also spoke about the situation of essential commodities in the country.

Minister Reacts to FRG Statements on Negotiations

EA1002220890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 10 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 10 Feb (SUNA)—Mr 'Ali Shummu, minister of culture and information and the government's official spokesman, has spoken of his disapproval of the allegations of the FRG Government, which claimed that the National Salvation Revolution government had no plans for negotiations. Shummu expressed his surprise at the statement recently issued by the Foreign Ministry of Federal Germany and said that the FRG Government was issuing these allegations at a time when it knew very well that the revolutionary government had taken the initiative, following the national dialogue conference, to send delegations to a number of countries in the world, including the FRG, to brief them on the recommendations and resolutions of the peace conference and to confirm the interest of the revolution in the establishment of peace and the settling of the southern problem peacefully.

The official spokesman pointed out that Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the National Salvation Revolution Command Council chairman, had (?often) said: We are not advocates of war, and the problem of the south should be settled peacefully and not militarily. [passage omitted]

Egyptian, Sudanese Agriculture Ministers in Talks

EA0902130290 Khartoum SUNA in French 1526 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (SUNA)—Dr 'Ali Ahmad Qulayhish [name as received], the minister of agriculture and natural resources on Tuesday, 6 February held discussions with Yusuf Wali, his Egyptian counterpart, on cooperation in agriculture between Egypt and the Sudan. The meeting also dealt with conditions of work in joint projects and means of developing them. The Egyptian

minister asserted the importance of agricultural cooperation between the two brotherly peoples in order to achieve food security.

Agriculture Minister Returns From Yugoslavia

EA1002174090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Professor Ahmad ali Geneif, minister of agriculture and natural resources, has disclosed that his visit to Yugoslavia was aimed at defining the trends of cooperation between Sudan and Yugoslavia. He stated that he discussed with his Yugoslav counterpart an agreement on various development fields between the two countries, particularly technology. The minister stated that a center for improving sunflower production would be set up in Sudan [words indistinct].

Dr Geneif said that he met with officials at the agricultural research centers and in the private sector, in addition to the Yugoslav Bank for International Economic Cooperation, with the aim of defining cooperation trends. He stated that the Yugoslav Government's vice president assured him duirng their meeting of the importance of cooperation between the two countries in the agricultural sphere and in general economic activity.

The agriculture minister returned to Khartoum from Yugoslavia yesterday after a five-day visit.

Saudi Aid To Fund Projects in North, Khartoum

EA0902124590 Khartoum SUNA in English 1024 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Feb(SUNA)—Saudi Arabia had million Saudi riyals donated in 1988 to relieve rain and flood victims in Sudan, member of the Revolution Command Council, RCC, Brig. Salah Muhammad Karrar reaffirmed.

Brig. Karrar, who is the chairman of the RCC economic committee, told the daily "AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH" today that the donation would be utilised in a project in the northern region and the national capital. The Saudi donation was frozen, Col. Karrar said, by the Saudi authorities because it was frightened that the political parties at that time will exploit it in other targets.

Kuwait

USSR Warned on Soviet Jewish Emigration

LD1302150390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1330 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 13 (KUNA)—Kuwait on Tuesday warned the Soviet Union that continuity of Soviet immigrants to occupied Arab territories would be at the expense of Soviet-Arab relations.

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told reporters following a meeting with the Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Ernest Zverev that he expressed Kuwait's deep regret over the settlement of Soviet Jews in occpied Arab territories and that is continuity would be at the expense of the relations between the Soviet Union and its Arab friends.

Shaykh Sabah said the Soviet ambassador handed him a message from Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on the outcome of his recent talks in Moscow with U.S. State Secretary James Baker as well as settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied Arab territories.

Shaykh Sabah said he explained to the Soviet ambassador Kuwait's worries at the dangerous repercussions of the emigration of Soviet Jews on the cause of the Palestinian people, its future and legitimate rights.

"During the meeting with the Soviet ambassador we expressed our deep regret over the emigration and we assured him that its continuity would be at the expense of the relations between the Soviet Union and its Arab friends," Shaykh Sabah said.

He added that the Soviet ambassador had shown understanding regarding the Arab stand and the shock felt by the Arab nation as a result of the emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Arab territories.

Shaykh Sabah expressed hope the upcoming meeting of the UN Security Council, called for by the Soviet Union on Monday, would reach an appropriate decision that would prevent immigrant Soviet Jews from settling in occupied Arab territories.

He said Ambassador Zverev would convey Kuwait's stance to the Soviet leadership.

The Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah last Wednesday accused the Soviet Union and the U.S. of masterminding the settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied Arab territories, describing it as the worst crime in the 20th century.

Thousands of Soviet Jews arrived in Israel over the past few months after the Soviet leadership eased travel restrictions which coincided with a U.S. decision limiting the number of Jews who want to settle there.

Oman

Bus Incident Demands Israel Reconsideration

PM1302164990 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 9 Feb 90 p 5

[Article by Dr. 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Muwafi: "Israeli Tourist Incidents Link in a Series of Bombings Which Must Be Contained"]

[Excerpts] It was not strange at all for the incident of the bus carrying a number of Israeli tourists heading for Cairo last Sunday via the Ismailia route to provoke many reactions, especially at the Arab level. Regardless of the mixed feelings, emotions, and political views here and there, it is essential to pause a little over the incident. True, criminal investigations have not totally revealed the identity of the perpetrators, though some considerably significant clues have been gathered, but the way the operation was carried out and its timing clearly reveal experience in such operations and the meticulous preparation for it—which is bound to throw much light on the quarter, or quarters, behind it. [passage omitted]

The Ismailia incident has undoubtedly accentuated the need to achieve peace in that region. It has also revealed the many dangers which the region could face should the efforts which are being exerted fail—something which all parties realize. Then came the increasing Jewish emigration to Israel to add another danger, or potential danger—that is, if it is maintained in a specific direction. If we take into account the clear condemnation of the Ismailia incident by numerous international parties, while condemning that action on the grounds that it was committed on a sovereign territory and for specific political objectives, the pressing question revolves around how to continue the peace process, how far Israel is responsible for what happened, and what could occur here or there. [passage omitted]

While peace is a noble objective which merits our working for it and bearing all sacrifices for the sake of achieving it, the first step on the road—the road of peace—is to recognize others' right to enjoy it and live in it, and to deal with all parties via rules and principles without any favoritism or repression. That is actually what Israel needs to do and adhere to, that is, if it really wants to live in peace and if it really wants to contribute to containing the explosions which could eventually lead to igniting the region, even through small fires planned in one way or another. So does it really want that? In any event the Likud meetings next Monday will answer that, or will at least emphasize what is already known.

Saudi Arabia

Newspapers Report Attack on Israelis in Egypt

PM0902092090

[Editorial Report] Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic on 6 February 1990 carries on pages one and three a

2,000-word report on the Egyptian bus attack citing news agencies; Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM; Israeli radio; and statements by the Egyptian presidential office, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, Israeli officials, the U.S. State Department, the "Palestinian ambassador" in Cairo, and the Arab League representative in Paris. The paper carries on page three an article titled "Mosad Behind Attack!"

Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic on 6 February 1990 carries on pages one and five a 3,000-word report on the bus attack citing AFP. The paper also cites statements by the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the "Palestinian ambassador" in Cairo, the Palestine National Council secretary, Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni, and Egyptian Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity Chairman Ahamd Hamrush, who say that the bus incident will cast a shadow over U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli talks and obstruct the speeding up of a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. The paper also cites eye witnesses' descriptions of the incident. On page five it publishes an article on the attack separately.]

Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 6 February 1990 carries on pages one and 18 a 1,500-word report on the bus attack citing news agencies, the Egyptian press, the Egyptian presidential office's statement, Israeli radio, and the U.S. State Department's statement.

Major Powers Blamed for Palestinians' Lot

PM1402132590 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 10 Feb 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Who Will Save the Palestinians From the New Plot?"]

[Text] Since World War I and the beginning of the famous Sykes-Picot partition deal, the annexations made at the expense of Arab territory and the loss of all Palestine, the international plot has continued with a view to further intensifying the Arab crisis and keeping it in a state of permanent instability.

True, the Arabs themselves have contributed to these circumstances through weakness and political mismanagement, but that does not absolve the old nor the new great powers of responsibility for causing the biggest crack in the Arab wall.

The immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine falls within that context in every respect, even though they warn their Jews against the fate they would meet if they settled in the occupied Arab territory. In the same vein, the United States bans their entry into its own territory. It is all a profitable deal for Israel, which knew how to play the game and benefit from the Soviet weakness and how to exploit that weakness through pressures agreed on with the United States.

While maintaining that the Arab nation has not done its duty in the face of its enemies and in new circumstances, we know that if the Arabs had the strength of their solidarity nobody would have dared challenge them, particularly since most of the world's major powers have fundamental interests with them. That, however, does not negate the fact that any cover used in the past, by East or West, for the protection of any Arab state has now become counterproductive, because the two superpowers have scores of solutions that they could use if they really wanted to stop Israel.

For example, what Security Council permanent member has called for a boycott of Israel or for sanctions against it for using every racist method against the Palestinians in the occupied territory?

What superpower has been even courteous to the Arabs by being positive about an Arab right through, for example, the United States' making its generous aid [to Israel] conditional on a halt to settlement in the occupied territory, or the Soviet Union's refusing to allow emigration to Israel except on international conditions that prohibit the replacement of Arabs by Soviet Jews.

That will never happen. So the Palestinian position will be even more critical in the future, because the Arabs are not mustering their positive strength and the outside world is not concerned with a current war being waged to liquidate the Palestinians in the occupied territory. That is why we do not believe that future political trends can produce any change that will establish an acceptable peace between the Arabs and Israel, unless that peace is conditional on keeping the Palestinians in Arab and international exile and on ruling out the establishment of a Palestinian state in Palestine, whatever the reasons and whatever happens.

Editorial on Soviet Jews' Emigration to Israel

PM1502091290 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 11 Feb 90 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "Have International Stances Transcended Arab Politics?!"]

[Text] U.S. President Bush is urging the Soviet Union to allow the Jews to emigrate directly to Israel. In order to appease the Arabs the Soviet Union is urging the Security Council to convene to urge Israel not to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

The whole thing is absolutely ridiculous, because the political aim is the Jews' arrival in Israel. As for the question of settling and finding work for them, it is up to Shamir's government. If we assume that the Soviet view is sound, we would say that Israel should be urged not to employ the Jews in sensitive factories and not to recruit them in the armed forces—things which are rejected in the first place and do not satisfy the Arabs or anybody else.

But in view of what is happening, we say that the Soviets, who have sacrificed their European front and many of their immediate allies, have no doubt at all that what they are doing is in their interests. This is attributable

primarily to the difficult equation of what the Arabs can offer the Soviet Union in return for what Israel is supposed to offer, either through its own technologies and expertise or through its contribution via its financial bases and direct pressures on the entire Western camp to make it grant Russia the status of an acceptable, if not preferred, client.

If we exclude the oil states, on the grounds that they possess a world strategic commodity, Russia does not need the Arabs—at least for the time being. This, because it imports advanced technologies, food, industrial products, and so on—things that the Arabs do not have. Furthermore, those things on which it used to rely in its strategic positions and in its attempts to break the military siege imposed by the Western bases are now worthless. The Arabs are losing their position because of these things, which are now worthless.

So what is left for our Arab relations with East and West? Will Israel become the immediate ally of both East and West and a political and military asset in the distant future?

This is perhaps going much too far; but if we return to what is happening, we will find that the Jews' emigration to Israel will impose a high price: pressure on the Arabs to accept Israel as the only power backed by both major camps, or the assumption that the demographic asset represented by the increasing Arab population—which threatens Israel's future—is no longer something to bank on. In both cases we are the only losers.

But can the entire Arab world be ignored? Can it not be seen as a reasonable future power? The Arabs alone can answer that; then we will talk about it.

Council Praises European Parliament's Israel Move

JN1502092890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] The National Council has welcomed the European Parliament's decision demanding the EEC suspend its scientific cooperation with the Zionist entity.

'Adil 'Abdallah, head of the Council's Arab and International Relations Committee, made a statement to INA in which he described this decision as a positive development in the European Parliament's stance in the interest of the Arab issues in general, and the Palestine issue in particular.

'Abdallah added the European Parliament's demand the EEC take action regarding the brutal oppression practiced by the Zionist forces against the protesters of the sons of the occupied lands reveals before world public opinion the policy of oppression and killing adopted by that usurping entity against the sons of the Arab people in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The European Parliament called on the EEC to suspend its financial aid, which is allocated for scientific cooperation with the Zionist entity because of the continued closure of Palestinian universities since January 1988. The Parliament also demanded the EEC's foreign ministers take necessary measures regarding reactivation of peace talks through organizing a peace conference in the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of all the concerned parties, including the PLO.

GDR Official Visits To Promote Bilateral Trade

Meets Trade Minister

JN1202153090 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 12, INA—Iraqi Minister of Trade Muhammad Mahdi Salih met here today with the German Democratic Republic's (GDR) undersecretary of foreign trade and deputy chairman of the GDR-Iraq joint committee.

The meeting, attended by Iraqi first undersecretary of Industry and Military Industrialization and the GDR ambassador to Iraq, focussed on means of promoting Iraqi-GDR trade and economic cooperation.

Delivers Message to Hammadi

JN1302160490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1453 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, received at noon today Mr. Richard Murphy, former assistant U.S. secretary of state.

During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations and developments in the Arab and international arenas.

Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi also received a message from Dr. Christa Luft, deputy prime minister in the GDR, dealing with bilateral relations.

The message was delivered by Mr. Kitt, undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Trade in the GDR, when he was received by Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi here at noon today.

Sudanese Trade Minister Arrives on Visit 13 Feb

JN1302145590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1455 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Feb (INA)—Mr. Faruq al-Bushra, Sudanese trade, cooperation, and supplies minister, arrived in Baghdad today heading a delegation on a 3-day visit to Iraq.

The Sudanese minister stated that during the visit, he will conduct talks dealing with means of bolstering bilateral relations in economic and trade cooperation.

'Udayy Saddam Husayn To Head Soccer Association

JN1302113290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 13 Feb 90

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 13 Feb (WAKH)—It was announced here today 'Udayy Saddam Husayn has been elected chairman of the Iraqi Soccer Association, replacing Karim al-Mulla, head of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee, who resigned for health reasons. [passage omitted]

'Udayy Saddam Husayn was chairman of the Iraqi Olympic Committee and Soccer Association before resigning his posts more than one and a half years ago for personal reasons. [passage omitted]

Sharon Explains Reasons for Cabinet Resignation

TA1402211290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1940 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by political correspondent Yig'al Goren and party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran, moderated by Yoram Ronen—live in the studio on the "Moqed" program]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Goren] Mr. Sharon, you have said on numerous occasions you strongly disagree with the way the government runs its business, but you also always have said the right way to fight against this is from within. Yet now you suddenly decided to change this and fight from outside. What brought about that change and your decision to resign?

[Sharon] I have thought about the resignation for a long time, nearly a year. During that time, the situation worsened. I thought in view of the changes in the world and the new opportunities that have arisen, perhaps the Cabinet would make a decision on a different direction. It is possible to attain peace. I believe this is possible, although it is a long process. But this definitely is not attainable the way the government is pursuing the matter. This road will not lead to peace; it only will yield tension, bloodshed, and maybe a war, which I believe can be avoided. I therefore reached the conclusion it is necessary to make every effort, and I intend to do that.

This coming Sunday I plan to conduct in Jerusalem at 1700 [1500 GMT] a news conference in which I will announce the launching of my campaign for a new political plan, a campaign to increase security—and I mean for all this to take place within the general framework of the Likud, and only in that framework. As part of this, I will campaign in every branch, travel from town to town, and also appear abroad. I so far have received a number of invitations to appear overseas. I was approached by many Jews, who expressed support for the move I have taken. These came from the United States, Britain, and France. In fact, I left my Cabinet seat to start marching, so no one will at any point will be able again to ask: Why were we not warned before disaster fell?

[Ronen] You thus will fight against the Cabinet from the outside—battle against the Cabinet and the prime minister—if you say you will come up with a new political plan, as this implies a plan totally different from the one the Cabinet devised.

[Sharon] I intend to fight for my positions and views. I would like to explain how it is possible to combat terrorism. I have tried to do so in the Cabinet for a long time. [passage omitted]

[Goren] Mr. Sharon, they say you have been blessed with great political acumen. Can you confirm you actually thought new political alignments were going to take place and the Alignment, or Peres, could set up a narrow-based government, so your move actually anticipated this development and you resigned to prepare for that eventuality?

[Sharon] I do not know how long this government will survive. I believe it could have endured the duration of its term if it were able to reach decisions, if it were capable of functioning. I have been in many governments. As a young officer, I could observe—although only from the sidelines—how Ben-Gurion ran his government. As commander of the paratroopers, I had more opportunities to do that, as I often was invited to visit him. I saw how he worked. I saw Golda Meir at work, then Levi Eshkol, and Menahem Begin. Unfortunately, we have a paralyzed government. It is a Cabinet incapable of making decisions. But things happen in the world, things change, opportunities come up.

[Ronen] Who is to blame for all this?

[Sharon] The person who is in charge of running the government.

['Azran] The prime minister?

[Sharon] The prime minister. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Perhaps you played into the hands of the prime minister, who expected your resignation, and accepted something he would have done anyway, but with more difficulty?

[Sharon] Rejoicing over my resignation came from two directions. The PLO, meaning Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], said my resignation was the intifadah's greatest achievement. I reiterate, this is a different case altogether, rejoicing also was heard coming from the Prime Minister's Office.

[Goren] Rejoicing also came from the White House.

[Sharon] The rejoicing coming from the White House gives rise to some sad thoughts. The United States is a democracy; Israel also is a solid democracy. Does this not bring to mind the days of Saigon, when the United States interfered in the domestic affairs of another country and ultimately brought about its downfall? I am a friend of the United States. The United States is our traditional friend, and we are its friend. This friendship works on the basis of reciprocity, but to interfere in such a way?

[Goren] The fact remains your resignation evoked wall-to-wall rejoicing.

[Sharon] This probably shows that through my opinions I serve as the brake against establishment of a Palestinian state. After all, what did 'Arafat's deputy, Abu-Iyad, hope for? That my resignation would lead to tougher and firmer positions on the part of the government? The glee was due to the weakening he perceived would follow. People ask me: Why did you actually have to resign? Admittedly, people have a hard time grasping the situation because everything happens gradually, very

slowly. Each threshold we cross looks low, and no issue appears to be cause for resignation. I have just heard in the news that Interior Minister Arye Der'i already is willing to enter a dialogue with deportees.

[Ronen] Not just him, Rabin also is willing.

[Sharon] Der'i says: Wait a minute, what is the problem with East Jerusalem? Now, I say: What is the issue of East Jerusalem all about?

[Goren] It would seem a majority in the government is prepared to go ahead with the process, while you remained in the minority and came to the conclusion that given this state of affairs, you actually could not stop progress.

[Sharon] I think we should explain this point once and for all. What does participation of figures from East Jerusalem mean? It means we actually are starting negotiations on East Jerusalem, and there can be no negotiations on East Jerusalem—this should have been made plain.

I was once asked: Why do you sit in the government? I replied: When the day comes I feel I no longer exercise any influence in the government, I will get up and leave. That day has come. [passage omitted]

[Goren] Israel actually has begun a peace process, and many people, both in the Likud and the Alignment, believe this process has a chance—that there is a chance of getting to talks in Cairo and promoting negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, perhaps for the first time after 100 years of conflict. Why do you stand in the way? Why do you not say: I will give this move a chance, and if it fails, I will try to go about it in a different way?

[Sharon] Not only am I not standing in the way of peace, but I support and believe in peace. Given the current state of affairs, this plan will not bring peace. How can peace be brought about? To bring about peace, tension first must be lowered. People around the world talk about walls crumbling down. What I have been proposing—and it is a shame the Cabinet never discussed this—is that first we break down the wall between us and Jordan; let us open the Jordanian border for six or 12 months to free passage of Israeli and Jordanian citizens.

[Goren] But why should we not start negotiations? I do not understand why we should not start negotiations between Palestinian and Israeli representatives. Perhaps this will bring the walls crumbling down. This never has been tried before.

[Sharon] These negotiations, with Egypt first and foremost, cannot produce any results whatsoever.

[Goren] Are you prophesying or stating a fact?

[Sharon] Look, a country that hosts PLO offices cannot be the venue of talks. Egypt is not an objective country. It fully backs the terror organizations. It has been supporting the terror organizations all along the way.

[Ronen] So, what do you propose? That the talks should be conducted in Geneva, in Switzerland?

[Sharon] No, no. Of course, Egypt should not have a role. Alternatively, I would say to Egypt: Do you want to be the venue of the talks? All right, but first of all, expel all the terror organizations and their offices from your soil. Incidentally, I made such a proposal in the Cabinet.

[Goren] But these are not practical proposals—this is beyond our control. The question is whether we are prepared to take a certain risk and enter negotiations, or insist that as long as optimal conditions do not exist, we do nothing.

[Sharon] Look, there are poeple who think practical proposals only are those accepted by the Arabs. I say practical proposals are what the Jews insist upon. I propose to bring down the walls along the Jordan River which, in my opinion, is an excellent suggestion. I am sure hundreds of thousands of people, both Jordanian and Israeli, would cross the bridges, visit Israel, go shopping and touring.

[Ronen] But such a proposal has to be accepted by King Husayn.

[Goren] That is just a minute detail.

[Sharon] What did you think? That only Israel should accept everything? Perhaps we should once come to the Arabs and ask them the question they never have been asked before, either by Israel or by other countries around the world: What are you, the Arab countries, prepared to give in exchange for peace? Israel already has given its share, and it keeps giving more and more. Through concessions we never will reach anything. [passage omitted]

Syrian, Israeli Peace Talks Said Held in Vienna

JN1502071490 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The London newspaper THE INDEPENDENT today said Israeli and Syrian representatives recently have met twice to discuss possibily reaching a separate peace agreement between the two states.

The paper published this based on Arab and Western diplomatic sources and said the two rounds of talks were conducted in Vienna with the approval of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir through the mediation of former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

Prime Minister Shamir said this report is a figment of its writer's creative imagination.

Shamir Dismisses Reported Talks With Syria

TA1502054290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The British newspaper THE INDEPENDENT reports that Israel and Syria are holding talks with the aim of reaching a separate peace agreement. [passage omitted]

Last night Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir dismissed the report, saying it is the product of a fruitful imagination.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 15 February adds: "The Foreign Ministry has no knowledge concerning the British THE INDEPENDENT report on talks between Israel and Syria."]

Rabin on Immigration, Mideast Arms, War Threat

TA1402183090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the Jewish people's biggest challenge in the present decade is aliyah, and we must not let this chance slip by.

The defense minister also said there is no doubt the current atmosphere in the world is conducive to peaceful solutions. In the Middle East, however, wars nevertheless can break out. These remarks were made at a meeting of the Soldiers Welfare Society in Tel Aviv. Minister Rabin's remarks are reported by our Army affairs correspondent, Karmela Menashe:

[Begin recording] [Menashe] What is taking place in East Europe, and even in South Africa, are events no one can brag he could have foreseen. These changes already have had a bearing on us, one of which, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says, is the opening of Soviet gates to Jewish immigration to Israel.

[Rabin] There is no doubt in my mind whoever views it from a historical perspective will regard it as a sign from heaven, a tiny crack. The question is whether it will grow wider and whether the hundreds of thousands of Soviet and East European Jews indeed will be given the chance to come to Israel and be absorbed here. A lot depends on us as well. It well may prove to be the challenge of the Jewish people and the State of Israel at the outset of the present decade, and later on.

[Menashe] It is important, the defense minister says, not to miss this great opportunity for Jews immigration.

[Rabin] Let the situation not arise in which, while 15,000 Jews are permitted to leave the Soviet Union, the problem remains only transportation, or political agreement to a certain type of transit. Insofar as housing and absorption are concerned, are the people truly ready to mobilize and take up this mission?

[Menashe] Minister Rabin added despite the changes in the world, we cannot delude ourselves. In various areas, including the Middle East, wars can break out. The arms shipments to the Middle East have not stopped. They come in from the Soviet Union, Europe, and even the United States. The danger of war still exists, and we must not ignore it. If we are strong, however, always are on guard—primarily in the sphere of intelligence—and guarantee alertness on the Golan Heights, it will be possible to deter and prevent war. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT reports further on Defense Minister Rabin's address, noting he said "terrorism always has been a part of Islamic Arab society and constitutes an important factor in internal Arab political struggles. It was not created specially for Israel. This is a phenomenon which has prevailed for hundreds of years, and Arab society has not yet shunned it," he said. Rabin also "emphasized that with a sober view of things, free of illusions, and without coming out with demagoguery that claims terrorism can be eliminated or uprooted," he nevertheless "believes we can combat that phenomenon."]

Levi: Likud Objects to Deportees, E. Jerusalem

TA1402151790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Minister David Levi said after his meeting with the prime minister that if the Inner Cabinet is asked to make a decision, all the Likud ministers will object to including deportees or allowing East Jerusalem Arabs to vote.

He added there is no urgency in this matter, and no one is demanding the Inner Cabinet immediately make any decisions. His meeting with the prime minister lasted one hour.

Shamir Promises To Honor VOA Station Accord

TA1502115590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister has promised Israel will honor the agreement it signed with the United States on setting up Voice of America [VOA] transmitters in the Negev.

Mr. Shamir said in a meeting with the chairman of the VOA Board of Directors that Israel will honor the accord, despite the problems involved in setting up the transmitters. Mr. Shamir stressed Israel considers erection of the transmitters on its territory important and is interested in expanding cooperation with the United States. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports the VOA chairman of the board said the transmissions are to be aimed at the Muslim inhabitants of the Soviet republics to strengthen moderate tendencies there.

Environmental Checks Assured

TA1402212190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Roni Milo, ecology and environmental protection minister, has said that, if the Cabinet indeed approves

the establishment of the Voice of America [VOA] station, his ministry will make sure the Americans finance routine follow-up research on the environmental and ecological effects of the station. Our correspondent Mikha'el Miro reports the minister was talking to the members of the VOA delegation visiting Israel.

'Defamatory' Article Prompts Basyuni Summons

TA1502114790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Israel has expressed disgust with a report in the Egyptian newspaper ROSE AL-YUSUF that charged Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir with responsibility for the murder of the Israeli tourists in Egypt.

Our correspondent Arye Golan reports Ambassador Basyuni was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, where concern was expressed to him about the defamatory and incendiary reports. Mr. Shamir was depicted on the front page standing on the roof of the attacked bus while shooting at a dead peace dove. The article blamed the prime minister for the massacre. Amb. Basyuni expressed reservations about the report and said it was wrong to publish it.

Netanyahu: Ministry 'Reassessing' S. Africa Ties

TA1402160090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Amnon Rubinstein of Shinuy and MK Ran Kohen of the Citizens Rights Movement, speaking in the Knesset, have called for extending an invitation to the African National Congress to send a delegation headed by Nelson Mandela.

Our Knesset correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu replied that the MK's' request will be looked at favorably when it is examined. He added the Foreign Ministry is reassessing the overall fabric of relations between Israel and South Africa.

S. African Ambassador Urges Lifting Sanctions

TA1502065190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] South Africa's ambassador to Israel has expressed hope Jerusalem will lift sanctions against the government in Pretoria.

The ambassador said such a move would help South Africa deal with criticism from the far right. He pointed out despite President de Klerk's recent reforms, the international community is maintaining its pressure on South Africa.

New Ambassadors Named; Peres Rejects Likud Man

TA1502101390 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 15 Feb 90 p 2

[By Moti Basoq]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry Appointments Committee has named five new Israeli Ambassadors.

The appointments will become effective in the summer. Amnon Ben-Yohanan, a former ambassador to Japan, was appointed ambassador to Sweden. David Sason was appointed head of the Israeli diplomatic representation in Greece. Arye Amir will be the ambassador to Burma. Two relatively young Foreign Service diplomats, Shmu'el Marom and David Kohen, were appointed ambassadors to Paraguay and El Salvador respectively.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 15 February in a report by 'Aqiva Eldar on page A3 adds that "Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, again has rejected an appeal by the Likud to appoint Knesset Member Zalman Shoval ambassador in Washington." Peres "made it clear he will not agree to a Likud man being appointed ambassador in Washington, because this is the most important diplomatic post."]

El Al Launches Talks With GDR Airline Interflug

TA1402180690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] El Al has launched talks with the GDR airline Interflug.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Miro reports an announcement on the talks was submitted by the El Al director to the transportation minister.

1 'Terrorist' Killed, 3 Captured in S. Lebanon

TA1402195090 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops this morning killed one terrorist and captured another three near the Beaufort castle in the security zone in south Lebanon. Our forces did not suffer any casualties.

Our correspondent Moshe Shlonsky and Moti Eden report that early this morning, an IDF unit spotted a terrorist gang near the Khardali Bridge. The soldiers opened fire and killed one terrorist. Three other terrorists fled, but an SLA unit in the area chased them and captured them.

The terrorists are members of Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and they were on their way to stage a terrorist attack on the northern border. They were found in possession of large quantities of personal weapons, antitank rocket launchers, food, and commando knives to cut the border fence.

This is the second terrorist gang captured in south Lebanon this week. On Monday, an SLA unit killed three terrorists, including a woman, who were members of the Lebanese Communist Party, and who were on their way to stage an attack in the security zone.

Adviser Fears PLO-Hamas Conflict, Violence

TA1502101690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Feb 90 p 2

[By Ben Lynfield]

[Text] Diplomatic progress in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will bring "direct confrontation and violence" in the Gaza Strip between secularist PLO supporters and Islamic fundamentalists, the Gaza Strip Civil Administration's adviser on Arab affairs predicted yesterday.

Over 30 per cent of Gaza's population now back the fundamentalists, about twice as many as before the intifada, Colonel David Hakham said during a press briefing. He attributed the increase mainly to the wave of fundamentalism sweeping the Moslem world, but added that the intifada had also played a role in fundamentalist gains.

Secular PLO factions, alarmed by growing fundamentalist popularity, have recently tried to court Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the main fundamentalist group in the Gaza Strip. But a "strategic gap" leaves them divided on key issues that would surface in negotiations—accepting Israel's existence, giving up claims to territory, and determining the character of a Palestinian state.

Because negotiations would involve compromise on these issues, which Hamas would be unwilling to do, it can be expected to try to disrupt peace moves, according to Hakham.

Nevertheless, if elections are held in Gaza, Hamas supporters are likely to run as a tactical move to show their popularity, he said.

Islamic Jihad, a smaller, more extreme group than Hamas, has declined in strength during the second year of the intifada because of security measures taken against it, Hakham added.

General Strike by Golan Druze Ends Uneventfully

TA1402184390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] The Druze community in the Golan Heights staged a general strike today and brought life in their villages to a standstill. Beate Hamizrahi reports:

Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev, the police commissioner, high-ranking police officers, and a large police, including Border Police and special units, were at hand today in the Druze villages of the Golan Heights. The display of force came in reaction to the anniversary of the beginning of the so-called big strike in 1982 when the Israeli law was extended to the Golan. Since then, the 14th of February has been observed in the Druze villages by a general strike, usually accompanied by violent disturbances.

Today the general strike was observed in all four Druze villages, but either because of the cold wind and intermittent rain or because of the large police presence there was no violence. Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev also disclosed that Druze leaders had promised to do their utmost to make sure that the laws were observed and that there would be no disturbances. Whatever the reason, this year's 14th of February passed quietly. Even a few dozen Syrians on the other side of the border who braved the weather and the lack of reaction on the Israeli side gave up after a few hours, packed up their loudspeakers, and returned to Damascus.

Paper on Aims of King's Talks With King Fahd

JN1502110090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Feb 90 second edition pp 1, 13

[Editorial: "The Savior Leader Espouses the Nation's Major Causes"]

[Text] It is clear to any Arab or foreign observer King Husayn's current action aims at safeguarding the Arab nation's existence and securing a better future for coming generations.

King Husayn's talks with his brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques, undoubtedly are aimed at bolstering the ties of pan-Arab brotherhood, and at preparing to confront challenges and dangers posed to the entire Arab homeland.

If the efforts exerted during 20 years of Zionist occupation of Arab territories did not yield fruits regarding achievement of a just peace in the region, then Israel, by disrupting the equation in the Middle East by receiving the Soviet immigrants, has confirmed the complete failure of peace efforts. So the region now faces the dangers posed by the establishment of Greater Israel at the expense of the neighboring Arab existence.

The Jordanian leadership realizes the dangers posed by the hostile and expansionist Israeli intentions and has begun to deal with the cause as one of life or death to Jordan. This actually is so, even if the Israeli leaders did not say Jordan is the alternative homeland.

From this premise, His Majesty King Husayn is trying to close the Lebanese gate constituting one of the gaps in Arab ranks. He also is trying to settle differences between the brothers in Damascus and Baghdad, because it is illogical for the brothers to have differences while their existence is threatened. His majesty consequently seeks to stop this terrible deterioration in the Palestine question as a result of the extensive Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel.

We only can beseech Almighty God to guide the steps of King Husayn and the Arab leaders on the right path to save the nation and put an end to aggression.

House Appeals for Unity Against 'Common Enemy'

JN1402214590 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Amman, 14 Feb (PETRA)—The House of Representatives has appealed to His Majesty King Husayn, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to adopt practical measures to settle differences and purify relations for the sake of building a unified Arab position capable of overcomimg the challenges facing our nation.

This came in cables sent by Sulayman 'Arar, speaker of the House of Representatives, to the three leaders.

In his cables, 'Arar said the Jordanian House of Representatives had decided unanimously to address an appeal to the Arab nation, urging it to adopt a single pan-Arab stance to protect the indivisible pan-Arab security and the right of survival for the one Arab nation. This nation faces the common Zionist Israeli enemy, and the House hopes this appeal from Jordan will have a special meaning, because it comes from the Arab state occupying the last line of defense for the Arab East.

The cables noted the Jordanian House of Representatives feels deeply now in particular we are one people facing a common enemy, something which makes it incumbent on us all to formulate a new strategy uniting us in a new position based on complete cohesion among the Arabs against Israel—a cohesion that means choosing life versus death.

'Tangible' Increase in U.S. Aid for 1990

JN0802161290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] It has been announced in the Jordanian capital there will be a tangible increase in the U.S. financial aid to Jordan this year. This aid will amount to $259 million, compared with $160 million last year.

$500 Million in Aid Said Needed in 1990

JN0802135090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] On another level, a ranking Jordanian source has told our radio the Kingdom needs $500 million in aid this year to meet its obligations.

He added: Amman so far has not received any sums for fiscal year 1990, while last year it received aid from Arab countries amounting to $300 million. The major part of this aid was provided by Saudi Arabia, and the rest by Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Iraq.

Ja'ja' Rejects 'Awn Appeal for United Front

NC1402125290 Paris AFP in English 1237 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Adonis, Lebanon, Feb 14 (AFP)—The head of the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia has rejected an appeal by General Michel 'Awn to form a united front and described the inter-Christian fighting as "sheer madness."

"We want to maintain the entire structure of the LF as it is, including our military forces," LF leader Samir Ja'ja' said in an interview with Agence France-Presse.

Gen. 'Awn earlier in the day had appealed to the LF to join his contested all-Christian government and to "add their guns to ours to defend Lebanon."

The militia and mainly Christian army troops loyal to the general have fought one another for the past two weeks, both in suburbs around Christian east Beirut and in the Kasrawan mountains further north.

More than 500 people have been killed in pitiless rocket and artillery duels that erupted January 31 after Gen. 'Awn vowed to disarm the 6,000-man militia and bring it under his control.

"I spoke by telephone earlier in the week with General 'Awn in order to calm the situation, because the war he launched against us is a catastrophe for the Christians. It's sheer madness," Mr. Ja'ja' asserted.

If it continued, he warned, it could trigger the intervention of Syrian forces stationed in Lebanon "and General 'Awn will be responsible for another tragic episode for the Christians."

The general has said the fighting could stop at once if Mr. Ja'ja' joined him in denouncing the al-Ta'if accord, an Arab peace plan for Lebanon under which Ilyas al-Hirawi was elected president by parliament last November.

Gen. 'Awn dismissed the agreement, first approved by Lebanese MPs at a special meeting in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, because it did not provide for the withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon.

"I am neither for or against the al-Ta'if accord," Mr. Ja'ja' said. "We take into consideration the plans of everybody, those of Mr. al-Hirawi along with those of General 'Awn.

"But those of the latter, while supposed to lead to liberation and unification have in effect led to the consolidation of the (Syrian) occupation and partition."

Gen. 'Awn last year led a six-month "war of liberation" against Syrian troops that killed over 1,000 people before coming to an end in an Arab-brokered cease-fire in September.

The campaign failed to drive Syrian forces from the country.

Mr. Ja'ja' was interviewed at an LF barracks in Adonis, located in the Kasrawan mountains 20 kilometers (12 miles) north of Beirut, where LF artillery fire turned back an advance by Army troops on Sunday [11 February].

"The general underestimated our strength. He wanted to penetrate Kasrawan, but that proved impossible."

The LF has captured 1,500 of Gen. 'Awn's troops since the start of the fighting, along with 50 tanks and 40 armoured transport vehicles, according to Mr. Ja'ja'.

"General 'Awn transformed the the army into a militia and we were in the process of transforming our militia into an army. We met each other half way and everyone is the worse for it," he added.

Ja'ja' Proposes 'National Authority' Under 'Awn

NC1402205390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1810 GMT 14 Feb 90

["Initiative" proposed by Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' to General Michel 'Awn on 14 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] I want to tell General 'Awn that we are not plotting against him. I want to be very clear, and I am addressing him very clearly and directly. We have no intention to plot against him. We spell out publicly the areas in which we oppose him, and I have said them one, two, three, and four times. We are against his internal practices continuing. We have no hostile intention toward him unless he continues his internal war.

We do not want to fragment the situation in the eastern area. On the contrary, we consider that there is one authority in the eastern area, and we consider Gen 'Awn the leader of this authority. I want to be clear. Furthermore, we consider that the state institutions in the eastern area are the ones in charge of domestic affairs. We do not want to engage in any domestic affairs, because this is not our business. We are a resistance, and we have no business with internal security, garbage collection, roads, or public security. We have no business with all these matters that are under the state institutions' jurisdiction.

On the other hand, we are a resistance that has existed for 15 years. There is no cause without us. We want to carry on so that the cause may continue. Gen 'Awn does not know what his institution's fate will be after one day, one week, one month, one year, or two years. I know what my institution's fate will be. As it is now, it will exist after one year, five years, and after 20 years. We do not want to compete with the state institutions, and we do not want to compete with Gen 'Awn for authority. We are a group of youths with a well-defined cause and a very clear and detailed political plan. We have offered

10,000 martyrs, and we want to continue their course and complete the mission for which they were martyred.

From this standpoint, I want to make him this offer to stop the bloodshed and stop the tragedy now, with one authority in the eastern area, with state institutions that are in charge of everything, with the resistance existing in all its dimensions and in its greatest meanings. Resistance does not compete for power but wants to complete its role on the fronts, behind the enemy lines, and wants to complete its activity toward its future political plan. We do not want to deal in internal, economic, social, educational, financial matters. These are under the state institutions' jurisdiction. As for major national issues like war or peace, decisions or major agreements and their discussion, we propose, as was mentioned in the tripartite committee's statement, to form a national authority [marja'iyah wataniyah] composed of seven or eight people. I imagine there are still seven or eight reasonable people in this country. When we form this national authority, we and Gen 'Awn will discuss these major issues including a war decision, a liberation decision, a peace decision, a treaty decision, and a decision on a certain strategy. We will discuss issues on this level, and not on low levels. The state will take care of matters on daily issues and state institutions. As for important national decisions which I mentioned, a national authority will be established under Gen 'Awn's chairmanship to discuss matters related to the people's and homeland's destiny.

I hope that my offer is clear enough and that Gen 'Awn will think about it carefully. I think this is the best way, maybe not the only way, to end the current conflict. This way, he will be reassured about his authority. We do not want anything from him. We will be reassured about our issues, our existence, and primarily about our freedom, which we cannot forsake, and about our future. Our freedom means that we have the right to express what we believe is right and what we believe is wrong. In other words, it is the freedom to express our opinion. That is all.

'Awn's Conditions for Settlement Outlined

NC1502074890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] 'Awn's conditions for accepting mediation constitute a sort of declaration of war. 'Awn has called for the elimination of all the Lebanese Forces' barracks, the merger of the Lebanese Forces—men and equipment—with the Army, the expansion of the military government, with decrees naming Samir Ja'ja' and another person to be agreed upon with General 'Awn as ministers, the placing of the media of the Lebanese Forces and the Phalangist Party—that is, the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, the Voice of Lebanon, and Radio Free Lebanon—under the supervision of the expanded government, and the surrender of Colonel Paul Faris and certain other wanted officers to the al-Yarzah command.

'Awn Denies Plan for Separate State

NC1402171790 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Artillery and rocket fire became more intense along the al-Tahwitah, al-'Adliyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Furn al-Shubbak, and al-Dawrah combat lines at 1500 today.

KUNA cites citizens in the Kasrawan highlands as saying that Lebanese Army main battle tanks have been deployed in battle formations in the area. Diplomatic sources do not rule out a major flare-up in the near future, particularly on the Kasrawan coast front, as part of an army attempt to reach Juniyah and control its port and the Bank of Lebanon branch there.

Within the framework of the media war in the eastern area, General Michel 'Awn has urged Ja'ja' to join him, or he will not reach any agreement with him. In an interview with the French LE FIGARO, 'Awn added: The Lebanese Forces are made up of good individuals, and we need them. He noted that they can play a constructive role, but they are being exploited by gang leaders.

'Awn declared that he represents legitimate authority, but he emphatically denied that he intends to proclaim a separate Christian state.

Violent Fighting Reported in Kasrawan 14 Feb

NC1402214590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] According to the latest security reports from the eastern area, violent clashes occurred in the al-Qulay'at-Darayya-'Ajaltun triangle in the Kasrawan highlands tonight. At the same time intermittent exchanges of machine gun, rocket, and artillery fire are taking place in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah, and al-Tahwitah.

'Awn's media reported that the Adma area is being subjected to intensive bombardment by artillery.

Lebanese Forces media said that 'Awn's forces are shelling residential neighborhoods in the Kasrawan coast and hills. They added that artillery shells fell in Furn al-Shubbak and al-'Adliyah tonight. They said that the vicinity of the al-Nahr road, Hayy al-Siryan, and al-Dawrah outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah were also shelled in the afternoon.

Red Cross Sends Medicine, Food to Eastern Area

NC1402175790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Excerpts] A convoy carrying medicine, serums, and food entered the eastern area via the port crossing today under Lebanese and International Red Cross auspices. This was a contribution by the humanitarian societies

and institutions and West Beirut officials in order to alleviate the citizens' suffering. [passage omitted]

The aid that was sent consisted of 50 tons of rice, 25 tons of macaroni, 1050 cases of large milk cans, and 350 boxes of canned meat. It also included edible oil, lentils, various canned foods, bread, and boxes of bottled water. [passage omitted]

Deputy: U.S. Experts Advised Ja'ja' To Redeploy

NC1402204190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Deputy Najah Wakim said that the battle between Michel 'Awn and Samir Ja'ja' has absolutely nothing to do with the defense of sovereignty, independence, and freedom. He called on East Beirut inhabitants to reject sectarianism and distance themselves from the leaders of the conspiracy and the dirty war.

Wakim said that the 'Awn-Ja'ja' battle was due to take place in March but the Papal Nunciature sources informed 'Awn of Ja'ja's plans, so he took preemptive action and the war started.

Wakim said that Israel told 'Awn that he should control the Lebanese Froces, unify East Beirut's decisionmaking, and start the battle on the northern front, for the support demonstrations [around B'abda palace] have already accomplished their goal.

Deputy Wakim disclosed that U.S. experts came to Lebanon secretly and advised Ja'ja' to redeploy his troops to increase their effectiveness in any battle. Wakim also said that Ja'ja' has received a promise that the al-Ta'if agreement will be amended to allow for more decentralization.

New Cease-Fire Agreement Goes Into Effect 15 Feb

NC1502112890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Our security correspondent reported a short time ago that a new cease-fire agreement went into effect at 1300 today. According to reports just received, the intensity of the battles has noticeably abated and endeavors have begun to enable Red Cross vehicles to enter the areas of the clashes to remove the bodies of the dead and evacuate the injured persons.

'Awn's Forces Violate Cease-Fire

NC1502084290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] In accordance with its usual practice, the 'Awn group has violated the cease-fire agreement reached by the mediation committee at 0910 today. This group continued the fierce attacks they started at 0545 today under cover of heavy artillery and rocket shelling directed at the eastern area, including 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Furn al-Shubbak, al-Ashrafiyah, and the Upper al-Matn coast.

Security sources told the Voice of Lebanon that despite the element of surprise that was used in an attempt to advance, the Lebanese Forces frustrated the series of attacks and the attackers retaliated by launching a destructive shelling operation against the rear lines.

Security reports from al-Matn coast said that intermittent tank and artillery shelling of al-Dawrah, al-Bawshariyah, Nahr al-Mawt, and al-Karantinah has resumed.

Meanwhile, Shakir Abu-Sulayman has continued his consultations with the Lebanese Forces and the 'Awn group commands in a bid to consolidate the cease-fire he announced an hour ago.

Fighting in Eastern Areas

NC1502063090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The security situation in the eastern areas flared up this morning. Shells began falling on al-Ashrafiyah and Furn al-Shubbak at the rate of five per minute. Shells also fell in al-Dikwanah, Nahr al-Mawt, Adma, al-Qulay'at, and the northern al-Matn coast. This comes amid continued troop concentrations on both sides, cease-fire violations, and media campaigns between the Lebanese Forces and the 'Awn forces. The combat fronts remained on high alert. [passage omitted]

W. Beirut Areas Shelled; Casualties

NC1502110390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The concentrated artillery shelling of the areas of al-Tahwitah, 'Ayn al-Rummnah, and Furn al-Shubbak is continuing. Al-Dawrah, al-Bawshariyah, Nahr al-Mawt, and al-Karantinah are also coming under intermittent shelling.

Sources of the Lebanese Forces cliques have accused 'Awn's cliques of launching a surprise attack on 'Ayn al-Rummanah under cover of intensive artillery bombardment at 0545 today. 'Awn's cliques have also shelled 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Ashrafiyah and its fringes, and the coast of northern al-Matn.

In their turn, sources of 'Awn's cliques accused the Lebanese Forces of shelling al-Ashrafiyah from their artillery emplacements in Kasrawan to make it seem that the army was doing the shelling. The sources also accused the Syrian forces of participating in the shelling.

The artillery fire did not spare West Beirut, particularly the Southern Suburb, today. The areas of the municipal stadium, al-Tariq al-Jadidah, Ard Jallul, the vicinity of the Kuwaiti Embassy, al-Ruways, al-Ghubayrah, Bi'r al-'Abd, Burj al-Barajinah, al-Shiyah, and Ra's al-Nab' have come under artillery shelling. One person has been killed and ll injured.

About one hour ago, the Hayy Mu'awwad and Hayy Madi areas in the Southern Suburb came under shelling. One person was killed and six were injured.

The al-Tariq al-Jadidah and Bi'r Hasan areas were bombarded a short time ago.

VOL Radio Building Under Fire

NC1502072590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpts] 'Awn's artillery surprised the citizens this morning with a concentrated bombardment of the institutions, churches, and residential areas in al-Ashrafiyah, Furn al-Shubbak, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Dawrah, Sadd al-Bawshariyah, al-Salumi, and al- Hayik circle in Sinn al-Fil. This surprise shelling has caused fires in Sayyidat al-Intiqal Church in al-Ashrafiyah, and in two buildings, one in the Fassuh area and the other near the Scala Cinema in Furn al-Shubbak.

The building housing the Voice of Lebanon radio has also come under shelling, resulting in damage to the building. However, none of the radio employees has been hurt, thank God.

The sources of the shelling as monitored this morning are the emplacements of 'Awn's group in Jisr al-Basha, Harat al-Mujaydilah, al-Tahwitah, and Galerie Sim'an. [passage omitted]

The bombardment of al-Ashrafiyah and other areas, in which 122-mm, 82-mm, and 155-mm artillery is being used, is continuing and causing heavy property damage, especially to cars. No accurate information has yet become available on the results of this sudden shelling, which began as the citizens were standing in long lines outside the bakeries, where they had been since the early hours of this morning, to buy bread for their families.

Meanwhile, al-Dawrah, al-Judaydah, Sadd al-Bawshariyah, and their environs have come under artillery and tank gun fire. Successive appeals have been made to enable the fires in Furn al-Shubbak, Fassuh, and Sayyidatal-Intiqal Church in al-Ashrafiyah to be extinguished.

Lawyer Shakir Abu-Sulayman, a member of the mediation committee, told the Voice of Lebanon radio a short time ago that he has been in constant touch with both sides since the security situation erupted this morning. He said that his contacts with the Army and Lebanese Forces commands concerned the new security developments in the vicinity of 'Ayn al-Rummanah. He added that he has been trying to re-establish the cease-fire and achieve an integrated security and political agreement.

It is worth noting that these contacts have not yet led to a halt in the ongoing destructive shelling of the residential areas in Beirut and the al-Matn coast.

Ja'ja' Forces Shell Several Areas

NC1502112290 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Sources of the 'Awn command have accused the Ja'ja' forces of starting today's fighting and shelling the al-Yarzah forces' positions in Furn al-Shubbak, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Tahwitah, Salome, Jisr al-Basha, and the northern and southern al-Matn regions, obliging those manning these positions to return fire. The 'Awn radio reported that the forces loyal to Ja'ja' shelled various areas in West Beirut and the Southern Suburb from al-Ashrafiyah. It accused the Ja'ja' forces in 'Ashqut, in the Kasrawan district, of shelling al-Ashrafiyah and Salome, injuring a number of military men and civilians. In a clear and blatant attempt to justify the shelling of West Beirut and the Southern Suburb, the radio claimed that the Syrian forces are shelling the eastern area from the mountain region.

Several areas in the Southern Suburb came under artillery fire this morning. Three people were killed and 21 were injured.

VOL Assails 'Awn Media 'Lies'

NC1502111590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The 'Awn group has intensified its frenzied shelling of al-Ashrafiyah and its outskirts and the ferocious attacks on the 'Ayn al-Rummanah-Furn al-Shubbak combat lines, where the steadfast area is resisting valiantly.

Fires have broken out in most residential areas and the area is a mass of black smoke. Fire engines and civil defense teams cannot get to the fires, which the people are trying to extinguish with whatever limited means they have.

The 'Awn group is continuing to deceive the population with various claims, believing that the Lebanese are still taken in by these blatant tricks. This group is shelling residential areas from its artillery emplacements and is also continuing its attacks on the fronts and on 'Ayn al-Rummanah. It is also shelling West Beirut to punish it for sending humanitarian aid to the eastern area yesterday through Bishop Khalil Abu-Nadir. Yet it continues to fabricate lies, claiming that it is not the party that is shelling al-Ashrafiyah, the Voice of Lebanon, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and West Beirut. According to the latest claim fabricated by this group, it is the Lebanese Forces and the Syrian forces who are shelling al-Karantinah, West Beirut, and al-Ashrafiyah. In addition to all this, the 'Awn group is turning a blind eye to its withdrawal from the Kafr Shima and Suq al-Gharb front lines and to the dispatch of its forces and destructive equipment to 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Dubayyah, and al-Qulay'at.

Press sources in West Beirut said that three persons were killed and several people injured in the random artillery shelling carried out by 'Awn in all directions. President

al-Hirawi's government held an extraordinary meeting to discuss the situation. The sources added that 'Awn's shells fell on the Kuwaiti Embassy vicinity and the areas of al-Hamra', the municipal stadium, and B'ir al-'Abd.

'Awn's media are claiming that his forces are only replying with accuracy to the sources of the fire, forgetting that 'Awn's forces scored direct hits on Sayyidat al-Intiqal Church, Furn al-Hayik where citizens had gathered to buy bread for their families, and the Hotel Dieu Hospital and other medical centers where there are no artillery emplacements.

The Kasrawan coast has also come under intermittent artillery shelling.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Forces' Fifth Branch has issued the following statement:

At 0600 today, 'Awn's artillery in upper and southern al-Matn started a destructive bombardment of 'Ayn al-Rummanah and its residential areas. This revengeful shelling was accompanied by desperate appeals from the 'Awn group to the sons of the citadel of steadfastness in an attempt to justify its crime against civilians and raise the morale of the army who failed today, as it has throughout the previous 15 days of the war of elimination, to achieve an advance on the 'Ayn al-Rummanah frontlines.

Ja'ja' Statement on Offensive

NC1502133890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Statement by Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja'; date, place not given—read by annnouncer]

[Text] Despite international good offices and repeated appeals by his holiness the pope and his beatitude the patriarch to observe a cease-fire, despite the tripartite mediation committee's efforts to calm the situation and attain a cease-fire, despite the fact that the Lebanese Forces have responded to all sincere appeals and efforts to end the bloodshed and devastation, despite the fact that I announced a political initiative yesterday that goes beyond the principles on which we previously reached agreement, it appears that General 'Awn is still determined to bring the free areas crashing down on the heads of their citizens. He points his artillery at the various areas, neighborhoods, and homes. This morning, at the time when I was due to meet with the mediation committee, he launched a wide-scale and concentrated offensive against the residential areas of 'Ayn al-Rummanah. He prepared the ground for his offensive by directing an extensive bombardment with all types of weapons against the innocent citizens in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Ashrafiyah, and other residential neighborhoods.

Lebanese Forces units confronted the offensive and prevented it from attaining any of its objectives.

I hold Gen 'Awn fully responsible, before the people, the homeland, and history, for the crimes which he perpetrates daily against children, women, and old people. He is responsible for every demolished house, for every martyred citizen, and for the devastation of institutions and properties. He is also responsible for destroying the Lebanese Army. I hold him responsible for all the negative political consequences that our society and cause will bear as a result of this war.

Mediator Comments on Cease-Fire

NC1502080890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0718 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Statement by Shakir Abu-Sulayman, member of the mediation committee and chairman of the Maronite League, on 15 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] I have been holding contacts since 0600 today with the Lebanese Forces command and the Army command. After intensive consultations on their part, I succeeded in speaking to Brigadier General John Farah, the army's chief of operations, and Major General Fu'ad Malik, the Lebanese Forces' chief of staff. I got a definite promise from them on their own responsibility that a cease-fire will begin at 0910 and that there will be no more shelling or sniper fire or anything at all. All through the night there was sniper fire here, shelling there, and none of us slept. The situation then flared up at 0600 today.

I hope that both of them will abide by the agreement so that we may at least put an end to this mad war and the destruction of life and buildings in Lebanon and try to find a solution between now and tomorrow for this matter and for this mass suicide. Both of them promised me that the cease-fire will go into effect at 0910. We told them both that we would openly name the party that starts the fighting again and tell the Lebanese and the entire world who is the aggressor and who is starting the fighting.

Al-Khalil Advocates Military Action Against 'Awn

NC1502123590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Finance Minister Dr 'Ali al-Khalil has said: If it becomes clear to us that the rebellion in the eastern areas will go on for a long time, and if we have to choose between partition and using the legitimate military forces, our choice is clear—to confront partition. He called on the parties in the eastern areas to support the actions of legitimacy, including its use of military forces. He explained that it is very possible that legitimacy will be able by its own forces to put an end to what is happening in the eastern area.

In an interview with AL-'AWASIF magazine, to be published tomorrow, Minister al-Khalil said that the shrapnel of 'Awn's partitionist phenomenon will reach the whole Arab nation. He described the French position as gray.

He revealed that 'Awn has stolen about 50 billion pounds from the Lebanese Treasury and put some of this money into dollars.

Communist Party Claims Attack on Israelis

NC1402211190 Paris AFP in English 1827 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Beirut, Feb 14 (AFP)—Lebanon's Communist Party Wednesday claimed responsibility for an anti-Israeli attack in which three of its fighters were killed Monday in the Israeli-imposed "security zone" region of Wadi al-Hujayr.

A statement published here by the National Lebanese Resistance Front, of which the Communist Party is a founder, said the commandos included a woman and two men from southern Lebanese villages.

The Voice of Lebanon, operated by the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army, reported Monday [12 February] the death of four fighters in Wadi al-Hujayr in the "security zone's" eastern sector following a clash with a joint Israeli-SLA patrol.

Resistance Operations, Israeli Activities Reported

NC1502083690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Resistance fighters have carried out a new series of operations against the occupation forces and the agent Lahd militia in the occupied border strip. Security sources said that a resistance group attacked an occupation forces' position in Kawkabah area, inflicting several casualties. Resistance fighters have detonated an explosive charge near an enemy patrol in the al-Shumariyah-'Alman area. The militia radio has admitted the operation, but kept silent about the casualties. Resistance fighters have also attacked an agent militia position in the Kafr Huna-Jazzin area, inflicting casualties among the militiamen.

According to reports from the occupied area, the Israeli forces have concentrated tanks and armored vehicles in the areas of al-Qulay'ah, Marj 'Uyun, al-'Ayshiyah, Kawkabah, and 'Ali al-Tahir. Security sources described these concentrations as huge, saying that the occupied areas have not witnessed anything on this scale since the Israeli invasion. An Israeli force has penetrated into the Yuhmur-al-Shaqif area and exchanged fire with resistance fighters east of Kafr Tibnit. Israeli forces deployed in the militia positions in 'Ayn Qinya, Zaghlah, and Zummarayya and carried out maneuvers with live ammunition.

Maronite Bishop Reviews Christian Conflict

PM1402124890 Paris LE MONDE in French 13 Feb 90 p 46

[Francoise Chipaux dispatch: "General 'Awn Has Opened a New Front in the North of the 'Christian Sector'"]

[Text] Beirut—The agreement, which the warring factions interpret in diametrically opposed ways, held for barely 24 hours. Monsignor Khalil Abu Nadir, Maronite bishop of Beirut, one of the security commission mediators, told us with disillusionment on Sunday 11 February: "The fighting will only stop when there are no more fighters." However, Msgr Abu Nadir blamed this situation on General 'Awn who, he told us, "refuses to understand the fact that the Lebanese Forces are a reality like all the armies on Lebanese territory. Our commission has made every effort to bring about a cease-fire, because it is convinced that only dialogue can lead to a solution, but Michel 'Awn regards himself as the legal authority. I am not saying that he rejects dialogue, but he does not use it.

"After 12 days of fierce fighting in which around 500 people were killed, including more than 200 soldiers and around 100 militiamen, and more than 1,700 were injured, the positions on the ground have virtually not changed since the capture of al-Dubayyah by Gen 'Awn's Army on Tuesday. By launching an offensive on Saturday [10 February] on the Heights of Kasrawan, the Army, which was quickly forced to stop its advance in that region, was trying to join up with the only point it still holds in Kasrawan—the al-Adma base—and the Lebanese casino on the coast, which would enable it to surround the Lebanese Forces which are cut off to the south at al-Dubayyah. The militia would then be split into three, between Beirut, the Juniyah pocket, and Jubayl, and it would be virtually impossible for them to obtain supplies. However, military sources now recognize that the battle is likely to take some time and to be difficult."

Backed by the people's support, which, despite everything, he still has, unlike the militia, Gen 'Awn is pressing ahead without worrying too much at present about the "Christian sector's" "fronts" with the Syrian Army and its allies, which are largely unprotected but to which there seems to be no immediate threat. Mr Ja'ja', who is on the defensive but still has resources, is fighting without responding to the overtures of President al-Hirawi's government because he is convinced that he can obtain political concessions for his acceptance of the al-Ta'if agreement. "'Awn is a target for everybody. Whoever defeats him will be the strongest," one of his advisers said in confidence, "so why share the reward?" Aside from the fact that it is difficult to see how the Lebanese Forces could defeat the Army without foreign help, they risk losing everything politically while Syria, which is watching the situation closely, does not wish to help either of the warring sides, preferring to intervene later on its own terms when it will be dealing with a weakened victor. President al-Hirawi, who is well aware that the decision does not rest with him, faces a cruel dilemma. It is Christian forces, the only ones he can use to counterbalance Damascus, which are being weakened, and if he is ever to return to the Ba'bda presidential palace, his entourage is wondering on whom he can rely in his own camp.

Christian circles close to the presidency and the government criticize the attitude adopted by the Vatican and Paris which, they say, "by preaching nonintervention, are writing off the future of Lebanon's Christians." "The Syrians are gaining time, and this is in their interest," one of the president's aides said. "They will be forced to do something if the general scores too many points, but by then we will have lost the Lebanese Army and the militia." "Furthermore," he added, "in the bargaining among militias (under the terms of the al-Ta'if agreement, the latter are to be disbanded—LE MONDE editor's note), if the Lebanese Forces no longer exist, it will be the East Beirut army which will be in the front line."

In this deadly game, the population's fate counts for little and hatred gives rise to violent score-settling. The "Christian sector," geographically fragmented and politically divided as never before, is being destroyed without any prospect other than intervention by the enemy it has been fighting for 15 years—Syria.

Soviet Envoy on Domestic Crisis, Jewish Immigration

NC1302124290 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The Lebanese problem was dicussed today by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha who said:

[Begin recording] [Kolotusha] Two basic points were discussed at today's meeting with his excellency the prime minister. First, I briefed his excellency the prime minister on the negotiations recently held in Moscow between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and the U.S. secretary of state because these talks dealt with, among other issues, Middle East affairs, including Lebanon's issue. I wanted to stress to his excellency the prime minister that in the discussions with the U.S. secretary of state, the two sides concurred on supporting the legitimate Lebanese authority and the al-Ta'if accord on the basis that it constitutes the reasonable and sound way out of Lebanon's difficult situation.

The second point discussed with his excellency the prime minister was a hard one, namely the issue of Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union to Israel and the Israeli authorities' attempts to settle the immigrants in the occupied territories. I conveyed to his excellency the prime minister the Soviet Foreign Ministry's statement on this issue and explained the Soviet stand to him.

I seize this opportunity to clarify the situation again following those made by senior officials at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, namely, that the Soviet Union has not recognized and will not recognize Israel's occupation of the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and that it still insists that these territories should be given back to their owners, including the Palestinian people. This is the first point.

The second point is that the Soviet Union opposes the settlement of those coming to Israel in these territories because this conflicts with international law and the Palestinian people's rights and would cause new problems and complications in the Middle East.

A third point is that the Soviet Union, with the cooperation of the Arab countries and the international community, wants to put an end to the Israeli authorities' settling the immigrants in the occupied territories. This is the first task and a promise that the Soviet Union would go to the Security Council to discuss this issue.

The second aim of Soviet moves is to intensify the efforts to find the quick and sound solution for the Middle East problem as soon as possible.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Ambassador. You said that the U.S.-Soviet meeting stressed support for the legitimate authority and the need to implement the al-Ta'if accord. Are there steps to implement this support?

[Kolotusha] This is up to the legitimate authority. The basic point stressed at the Shevardnadze-Baker meetings was that the Soviet Union and the United States support Lebanese legitimacy and the al-Ta'if accord as the only possible way for getting Lebanon out of this difficult situation.

[Reporter] Is there a role for the Soviet Union and the United States to pressure some forces that impede the mission of the legitimate authority in Lebanon?

[Kolotusha] There are declared stands by the Soviet Union and the United States which, in my view, are a basic political factor of pressure on the parties that oppose the al-Ta'if accord.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr Ambassador.

[Kolotusha] Thank you. [end recording]

Al-Hirawi Chairs Meeting on East Beirut Events

NC1302072990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi chaired a meeting at the provisional presidential headquarters yesterday. Present were Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Ministers Albert Mansur and Ilyas al-Khazin, and Deputy Butrus Harb. They discussed current developments.

The chamber speaker briefed the conferees on his meetings and talks with Syrian officials in Damascus. He said the talks dealt with the current events in East Beirut and the suffering of the citizen there. Speaker al-Husayni added: This makes it incumbent upon the legitimate authority to intensify its contacts on all levels to find the adequate means to salvage the people and end their suffering.

Speaker al-Husayni called attention to the fact that the present intensive contacts are aimed at adopting measures necessary to achieve salvation. He added: We are

in constant contact with everyone to end the suffering of the Lebanese and enable Lebanon to ride out this serious deadlock.

Responding to the French and Vatican stands, the chamber speaker affirmed that he who obstructs the return of legitimacy to all of Lebanon will be responsible for any consequences that might arise as a result of the eruption of acts of violence and fighting.

Reacting to Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente's call that President al-Hirawi and the legitimate authority not to carry out a military operation in the eastern area, Speaker al-Husayni said: We must dot the i's and cross the t's with regard to the situation. He who supports the legitimate authority cannot oppose its measures which are adopted mainly to salvage the citizens and consolidate the state's independence and sovereignty.

Junblatt: 'Alliance' Against 'Awn, Ja'ja' Needed

NC1102140090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt has reiterated that there can be no relying on either 'Awn or Ja'ja' in the eastern area. He said: We can only conclude that should 'Awn triumph, we will face a great opponent who enjoys high morale and we will enter a phase of uneasy poilitical and military confrontation.

During a visit to the Voice of the Mountain radio offices shortly after noon today, he noted that 'Awn has received enormous material and political assistance from Iraq and 'Arafat with Arab cover and support. He stressed that what is needed is a broad alliance with every Lebanese Christian nationalist who rejects Ja'ja's militia logic and 'Awn's dictator logic. He said: There is no alternative but to cling to President al-Hirawi's legitimacy, which we must enhance. He noted that differences exist within the legitimate government.

Junblatt expressed the view that the entire Middle East is a volatile region where there are no solutions and there will be no Palestinian state or international conference. Our (?enemies) are stronger than we are because we are divided and frightened.

Commenting on Jewish immigration to Israel, he said this is a strategic issue and a momentous change in the region. The immigrants, he added, will settle in southern Lebanon, Sinai, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. He noted that, instead of blaming the Soviet Union, a Jordanian-Syrian-Lebanese alliance should have been set up to avert the establishment of a Greater Israel. He pointed out that a quiet dialogue should be held with the Soviet Union, which supported the Arab cause to the end but was treated with ingratitude and was fought against in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Ja'ja' Thanks Mitterrand for French 'Initiative'

NC0902221290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 9 Feb 90

["Text" of cable sent by Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' to French President Francois Mitterrand on 9 February]

[Text] Mr President: I send you this message to express thanks for your noble initiative which reflects the greatness of your country and the cordiality of your people. Your initiative was effective in stopping the wave of mad destruction which swept over the free Lebanese areas in the past few days.

I also thank your kind and humane gesture to our injured people, a gesture which France has repeated throughout the Lebanese crisis. We hope that France continues to make such gestures under the currently grave circumstances.

Mr President, you certainly know that the situation in the free Lebanese areas cannot remain as it is. The cease-fire lacks the guarantees, both practical and political, that could prevent its collapse.

We fully believe that France is capable of playing a major role in this respect in view of the international credibility it enjoys and the prestige it could utilize in the service of Lebanon, its people, and its freedom.

The French people, throughout their history, have made many sacrifices to defend the principles and values in which they believe. The French have always believed that authority should not be oppressive, that governments should not be repressive, and that it is impermissible to enslave people for any reason. These, Mr President, are the same values for which we have always fought.

We have the right to respect our own roots and to defend the noble heritage which our people have worked hard and even fought to preserve. We also have the right to refuse to fall victim to those who do not believe in dialogue, who do not respect those who hold different opinions, and who have little regard for other people's rights to independence, freedom, and a role in deciding the future.

Mr President, as the 21st century draws near, it is particularly saddening that we are not joining other nations to build the kinder world we all hope for. It is painful to see the aspirations of our people shrink to the point where they merely care to eke out a meager living. These are the same people who would otherwise have been able to meet their own needs and assist others as well.

We have great respect and amity for you and for France. We hope that your initiative will soon have an effect on the practical and political levels. This would provide an opportunity for the salvation for our area and would serve as a prelude to the resumption of efforts to find a just and comprehensive solution to the country's problems.

[Signed] Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Lebanese Forces

Article Questions U.S. Military Reorganization

JN1402170290 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 10 Feb 90 p 8

[Article by Ahmad Suwwan: "Dangers and Illusions"]

[Text] THE WASHINGTON POST published the text of U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney's plan to reorganize U.S. defense strategy in the Gulf. It is a booklet of 28 pages signed by Cheney in which the United States sets forth a new military defense strategy for the Gulf. It includes plans to defend the oil fields against an undefined attack. In other words, the aim of the plan can be summarized as adopting a new military scheme in the Gulf that focuses on securing oil supplies by avoiding the danger of regional threats, despite the fact that the United States has ruled out the danger of a Soviet military move against the Gulf oil fields.

To start with, we could say that this military plan, which is part of reorganizing and reviewing U.S. military policy abroad, is no different in its motives and goals from what George Bush outlined while attending military maneuvers in the California desert: That decreasing U.S. forces, tightening military expenditures, or the new international climate, do not mean being unprepared to intervene. He cited as an example Operation Just Cause, as he described it, which he ordered last December to overthrow General Noriega in Panama. Bush said: The important thing is not to let the promising political and military changes make us too self-confident. We cannot reduce our alertness to the threats that exist throughout the world.

We wonder here: Why is the United States seeking and finding new pretexts in reviewing and reorganizing its military plans? And why does it dilute this process, or even try to reverse it, where U.S. policy in the Middle East and the Arab world is concerned? Washington knows better than anyone else that there is no threat to the region other than the Zionist threat. Nevertheless, it still proclaims its bias toward Israel and supports it economically, politically, militarily, and with human resources—without there being any relationship between this support and the policy of tightening or squeezing expenses in the U.S. budget and foreign aid.

Previously, under the pretext and illusion of a Soviet threat, the United States believed it necessary to strengthen its military and political presence in the Gulf. What is the new danger on which the United States bases its desire to turn the Gulf region into its "backyard," and on what basis does it presume the presence of some threat or other to the oil wells so that it proposes a new strategic plan to intervene because the oilwells are threatened?

By raising doubts and dangers, the United States still hides its intentions in many regions in the world, among them the Gulf and the Middle East. It only seems to adopt the intervention and big stick policy in this part of the world and forms its policy on the basis of keeping crises simmering, if not actually creating them. Henry Kissinger excelled at this policy, which resulted in the immediate intervention of forces and the bias to Israel, and he showered Israel with aid and support. This was especially true in military relations between Tel Aviv and Washington, which became a strategic alliance in which Israel was regarded as a member and partner in the NATO alliance and was transformed into an arms stockpile for American and NATO operations in the region.

U.S. thinking about how to benefit form the international climate of peace and its changes must begin first and foremost with the Israeli burden and how to end its potential dangers, not to mention the $4 billion cost borne by the U.S. budget—apart from gifts and donations. The United States should not begin with new military projects and plans to face illusionary dangers that do not exist, either against the oil wells or U.S. interests in the region.

Al-Zu'bi Meets Media, Discusses Economic Gains

JN1402215790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi met this afternoon with media representatives in the country.

The following attended: Information Minister Muhammad Salman; Muhammad Ghabbash, minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Hassan al-Saqqa, minister of supply and internal trade; Industry Minister Antoine Jubran; Finance Minister Khalid al-Mahayini; and general managers of all media institutions—television, radio, and newspapers.

At the beginning of the meeting, the information minister welcomed Mr. al-Zu'bi and expressed the media officials' joy at this meeting, since it indicates the effectiveness of the media in developing and contributing to strengthening the march of growth and steadfastness—the march of the people and their great Ba'th Party under the leadership of struggler comrade Hafiz al-Asad.

The prime minister, after that, delivered a speech and thanked the journalists for their constant efforts in the search for truth and betterment, and for placing the citizen in the picture of events in our country and its achievements. He pointed out the great responsibility leader Al-Asad has entrusted to the journalists. He then pointed out the government's plan and future action policies based on what has been achieved during the past two years.

After Mr. al-Zu'bi gave the journalists a chance to present their questions, queries, and comments, he answered them, clarifying the circumstances of jobs and possibilities of improvement in view of the policy of self-reliance. He said: Syria now is completely self-reliant, which is an important and positive indicator.

The prime minister affirmed the importance of the public sector's leadership and its pioneering role in our economic life. He discussed the achievements in both the agricultural and industrial sectors, especially in the fields of irrigation, land reclamation, and optimum utilization of factories. This has led to increasing production and exportation. He pointed out that our economic balance achieved an increase of 10 billion Syrian pounds last year. He said that this year's budget has created 73,400 jobs.

The prime minister also discussed our oil and gas investments and prospecting. He affirmed that Syria possesses sufficient reserves of gas to generate electricity and export it. This is in addition to the oil discoveries of good and tradable quality in the fields of prospecting.

Columnist Calls for Arab Unity on Emigration

JN1402214990 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 11 Feb 90

["With the Events" column by Riyad Mahmud: "Toward Confronting the New Conspiracy"]

[Text] It is no secret to anyone anymore the increasing Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine is the result of concerted efforts by the world Zionist movement and international imperialism, from the beginning of this century, to confirm the fact of the Arab world's partition and to support Israel in its expansionist and aggressive policy.

Israel, established 40 years ago on the land of Arab Palestine, constituted the first triumph for the powers hostile to the Arab nation by implanting a colonialist bridgehead or spearhead to impose Zionist and imperialist hegemony over the Arab region.

In past decades, Israel has managed to carry out its duties perfectly, achieving a fabricated form of success, to the praise and blessings of the forces which, in fact, achieved this success and which Israel, the medium, performed for them. With the discovery of Arab strength and capacities arising from the latent power in the depths of the Arab land and people, the powers embracing and patronizing Israel were forced to support and provide it with all the elements of survival it lacked in order to preserve its ability to carry out the unfinished duties entrusted to it.

The imperialist forces therefore suggested suppporting Israel with every means possible, especially the human factor, which it lacked, in addition to material and military forces it needed.

Whoever has followed these international events realizes in his speech on peace in the Middle East, U.S. President George Bush did not try to avoid pointing out the necessity of allowing Soviet Jews to emigrate directly to Israel. He pointed to the measures taken by the United States to prevent Soviet Jews from immigrating to the United States.

Bush did not hide his sympathy for U.S. Zionist organizations' campaign to gather huge sums to finance settling the newly arrived Jews, despite the official statement that the United States is opposed to the settlement of these people in the occupied Arab territories. What is disgusting is the whole world knows Israel would not have dared settle the Jews in the occupied Arab territories without Washington's implicit approval. The Arab nation has great strength and is capable of overcoming the challenges facing it. The new international conspiracy must be resisted with a firm and united stance, and as soon as possible, because history has no mercy.

TISHRIN Also Calls for Arab Unity

JN1102111690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0835 GMT 11 Feb 90

[Text] Damascus, 11 Feb (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN has said the Zionist enemy leaders all affirm in word and deed their rejection of a just peace in the region and their adherence to their expansionist dreams at the expense of Arab land within the framework of establishing Greater Israel. They are working toward forcing the Arabs to leave their land and rights in Palestine.

In its comment today entitled "Settlement and the Arab Necessities," the newspaper clarified Israel's aggressive policy toward the Arabs, which becomes very clear through the projects and calls for settlement, requires the Arabs, now more than ever, shoulder their pan-Arab responsibility, take a united stand and decision to create effective solidarity capable of deterring Israel's aggression, and set the basis for a true peace stemming from the elements which eliminate the reasons of the Arab-Israeli conflict and fully retrieve the usurped Arab rights.

TISHRIN concluded its comment by warning if the Arabs neglect to realize this solidarity, which preserves their dignity and retrieves their usurped rights, they will find themselves, in the final analysis, before a Zionist danger targetting all of them.

Al-Zu'bi Interviewed on Arab Unity, Lebanon

JN1302211790 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi has said Syria always has worked for effective Arab solidarity against the Arab nation's major enemy, Israel.

Joint Arab action requires we start by including every economic and political aspect. In view of the challenges of the age, the Arabs constantly are required to end disputes and blocs and follow a united, strategic Arab economic and political policy. Arab economic integration cannot be achieved except in a comprehensive way. Syria considers the Arab League and its institutions an achievement and a base on which fruitful and constructive steps could be taken toward rapprochement and integration, ultimately leading to unity.

Mr. al-Zu'bi adds: It is of continuing i
Arab strength and set comprehensi
lines to make the policy of joint
economic and political, a policy of u
pan-Arab goal of Arab unity.

These statements were made in a pr
lished last Sunday [11 February], in
minister answered questions on local
forth by the correspondent from th
paper, AL-HAYAH.

Answering a question on the results o
Amman, Mr. al-Zu'bi said: The me
Higher Syrian-Jordanian Committee
hensive review of progress in coordin
tion between Syria and Jordan, an
Syrian-Jordanian companies. Dur
meeting, it was possible to define cle
work needed to achieve agricultura
trade integration between the fratel
reaffirm the cooperation and solidarit
tries in the face of Israeli schemes,
Arab solidarity and the pooling of Ar
effective Arab stand against all challe
Israel's failure against the Palestini
intifadah forces it to create pretexts to
it can, the internal crisis surrounding

When asked about the Lebanese situa
East Beirut, the prime minister s
accord—agreed upon unanimously
and Arabs and supported by the inte
nity—defined how to solve the Leban
contributing toward ending the blo
After the election of Mr. Ilyas al-Hira
the Lebanese Republic and the esta
national accord government, the r
cannot be stopped. Events in the ea
natural result of 'Awn's insurgence an
with the legitimate authority.

Mr. al-Zu'bi continues: The solution
the legitimate authority and backing al
Syria has affirmed its commitment to t
and support for the legitimacy of Pr
and the national government. Syria a
provide this government with the hel
time.

Asked about Syria's ideas on the age
coming Arab summit—if it takes pl
invited to attend—Mr. al- Zu'bi answe
of an urgent Arab summit so far has no
Syria has participated in every A
strengthen the roots of Arab solidarity
to the challenges facing the Arabs. S
expressed, and will continue to expres
of a united Arab stance. Syria will sup
in, and contribute with all its resour
summit leading to this goal.

When asked about the current state of the Syrian economy, Prime Minister al-Zu'bi replied: We know the world economic disturbances that hit the states of this region have had clear ramifications. The disturbances were the damage caused by the Iraq-Iran war, the maneuvers of the dollar, and the game of rising and falling oil prices and production ceilings. Syria was able to face the changes thanks to its diversified economy. Syria does not depend only on oil, but also on agriculture, industry, gas, and productive services. Since the eighties, Western media and other quarters opposed to Syria's policy have habitually described Syria's economy in a way far from the truth. True, Syria went through hardship, but it absorbed this hardship while other countries where deeply affected. I can say the difficulties that surfaced at the beginning of the eighties were useful: They prompted us to change our plans and tactics, to depend on ourselves, and to exploit agricultural and industrial resources that before had not been used. They also led us to change patterns of random consumption that overwhelmed our daily life.

Al-Zu'bi added: Let us look at the Syrian economy after the adoption of this policy. For example, we currrently are assessing the economic situation of 1989. That was a year of export, as far as the trade balance is concerned. Until 31 December 1989, Syria's total exports amounted to 33.7395 billion Syrian pounds, while imports were 23.3104 billion pounds. This means a difference of 10.4291 billion pounds in favor of exports. There was a similar balance in 1988. This balance is the major development in Syria's economy. If we look at Syria's budget this year, we find all current expenses—salaries, wages, all forms of administrative spending, and investment on current development projects—are covered by local financial revenues. You know the Arab financial assistance decided in the Baghdad summit stopped in 1988. The balance between revenues and expenses in the annual budget, however, was the important thing, because the budget reflects the total financial policies that govern economic activity.

Al-Zu'bi concluded his statement to the Lebanese AL-HAYAH newspaper by saying: The achievement of this pan-Arab Syrian economic turning point was not easy. It required a direct, on-the-spot treatment of every problem according to a general vision. We now are busy making agriculture the backbone of the national economy. We have irrigated tens of thousands of hectares, and the major problems of electric power almost have been solved. When the Widyan al-Rabi' and other projects are completed, Syria will be an electricity-producing country. I cannot talk about our aspirations, especially since Syria's supply situation is satisfactory and there are projects to exploit oil and gas, with tens of foreign companies—French, British, American, German, Spanish, Canadian, and others—discovering oilfields, drilling wells, and producing the best commercial light oil. The prospects for oil and gas are expanding daily. Syria now stands as a country with a good economic future, and we now are more confident about our economic situation than ever.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speech on Troop Withdrawal Anniversary

LD1502063890 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Speech by Afghan President Najibullah in Kabul on 14 February on the first anniversary of the withdrawal of Soviet Forces from Afghanistan—live or recorded]

[Text] [passage indistinct] As the aspiration of peace requires further efforts by all Afghans, I would like to put forward a number of other proposals:

To prepare the ground for the safe convocation and operation of the Afghan's Meli Shura the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan proposes:

A cease-fire or break in the combat operations of both sides should be announced and observed.

Furthermore, for the purpose of a military cease-fire in the whole country, we can first announce a cease-fire in the (?eastern section).

To prevent the massacre of the cities' people and residential regions by extremist opposition groups' rockets, the government is prepared to stop firing long-range Scud missiles at the positions of the armed opposition in return for a cessation of the extremists' launching rockets at Kabul City and other cities of the country.

The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is proposing that a delegation from Kabul travel to Peshawar, Quetta, and Tehran to hold talks with groups in search of ways for the political solution of disputed issues and to prepare the ground for the convocation of Shura inside Afghanistan. If the opposition do not agree with the dispatch of delegation representing the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, we can appoint and dispatch a totally nongovernmental and nonparty delegation consisting of high-ranking clergymen and ulema, sociopolitical figures, and other intelligentsia not attached to the Government or to the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA].

We also propose that a number of representatives of Afghan groups and formations, as well as independent Afghan individuals and figures residing outside the country, travel to Kabul. It is not necessary that at the first instance they should hold talks with government and party authorities in Kabul. They can, with full freedom, see the people they want to see and become more familiar with the existing situation and public opinion in the country. They can be fully assured of their safety in Kabul and the possibility of their return abroad.

On the basis of (?military observations) we propose that in the event of agreement by the opposition (?leaders), an authoritative joint commission is to be formed to consider the issue of release and swap of Afghan and Soviet prisoners and POW's who have been jailed by both sides.

To consider and control the observation of human rights in Afghanistan, the government proposes that an impartial delegation should be appointed by the Human Rights Commission to commence operation in the regions where the opposition operates and regions under the control of government. We can also commission a separate international delegation for control, prevention, growing, and traffic of narcotic substances.

To attract further stimulation of economic activities for the reconstruction of Afghanistan we invite all people of Afghanistan, inside and outside of Afghanistan—including workers, intelligentsia, traders, and owners of national industries, clergymen, Armed Forces personnel, leaders of clans and tribes, as well as Armed Forces commanders—to take part in the economic activities of the country and to make investment with perception of responsibility and confidence. The government will design incentive measures for setting up joint enterprises on the basis of mixed investments.

A number of Afghan, tribal, and Pakistani traders received serious losses as a result of the lack of complete security along the Jalalabad-To'rkham highway. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan proposes that this highway be proclaimed as a corridor of peace, that all military operations there cease, and that the highway be opened for traffic and transportation of commercial goods.

Here I want to address the West European and U.S. Governments. If the Afghanistan problem is not resolved by peaceful means as soon as possible, if a powerful, broad-based, central government is not created, if the legal sovereignty in regions controlled by the opposition is not revived, this will involve undesirable consequences for peace and for international security in the region. In addition, it will cause irreparable damage to the Western countries' young generation because the intense production and trafficking of narcotics in some regions controlled by the opposition will continue.

On the basis of Afghanistan's peace-seeking foreign policy based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, good-neighborliness, and reciprocal advantageous cooperation, we propose that goodwill delegations of the Republic of Afghanistan travel to Islamabad, Tehran, Beijing, Washington, and the capitals of a number of other countries to try to normalize relations with them. Of course, we will also warmly receive the delegations of these countries in Kabul. These delegations can be governmental, parliamentary, or consist of nongovernmental or nonparty figures.

The state of the Republic of Afghanistan will, on the one hand, confidently defend itself in the military sphere and will, on the other hand, continue the national reconciliation policy and seek the cohesion of all political forces in support of peace in a united front. This will be done to realize the policy of national reconciliation. Also, the state will embark on the introduction of necessary changes in the charter and aims of the PDPA, provide

suitable conditions for political parties' effective activity inside the country, work toward expanding democracy, and devote attention to the people's living conditions. This will begin in accord with the policy of national reconciliation and this policy of realization of reforms, in consideration of the specific peculiarities of the Afghan society. The series of measures will continue to be taken in the future.

Dear compatriots, now when one year has passed since the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, it is more clear than ever that the cessation of war through talks and compromise is the demand of every patriotic Afghan, be he inside or outside the country. We deem ourselves pledged before Almighty God and before our Muslim and persecuted people that we will not spare any effort and sacrifice in the way of the realization of the policy of national reconciliation and the maintenance of peace as a sacared Islamic and national duty. Success comes from God.

Pakistani Charge Summoned on 'Intervention'

LD1402103190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 13, BAKHTAR—Charge d'affaires of the Pakistani embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) on Monday and the following was conveyed by the caretaker of the first political department to him.

Based on precise reports, on 5th of January 1990, two Pakistani helicopters, transferring a six-member delegation of the interim government of the Afghan extremists based in Pakistan aimed at intensification of subversive actions and distribution of money to the extremists in Shinwar district and the surroundings of Kunar River, landed in Babo area of Chawkai District, Kunar province.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RA considers this action of Pakistan as a clear intervention in the internal affairs of the RA and contrary to all internationally accepted norms and principles as well as blatant violations of the Geneva accords and regards it as main cause of intensification of continuation of war in Afghanistan.

Thus the government of the RA lodges its strongest protest on this act of the Pakistani authorities and demands them to refrain from repetition of such actions, otherwise its grave consequences will rest on the Pakistani authorities.

100-Truck Government Supply Convoy Reaches Gardez

BK1502043490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1805 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb 14 (AFP)—An Afghan Government supply convoy has reached the southern city of Gardez after more than a month of bitter fighting with rebels and may try to reach the embattled city of Khowst in the east, a senior ruling party member said here Wednesday [14 February].

The convoy, said to include more than 100 trucks, had been stalled outside Kabul city limits for more than a month.

The capital had been shaken day and night by the sound of heavy bombing and rocket strikes as government troops supported by militia attempted to clear the Logar Valley section of a road 35-40 kilometres (21-31 miles) south of Kabul.

"The convoy reached Gardez Thursday and since then the road had been open to traffic," said Najmuddin Kawiani, a Central Committee member of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Mr. Kawiani said the army may try to push from Gardez to Khowst, a city on the Afghan-Pakistani border which has been under siege since last autumn.

Gardez is some 100 kilometers (62 miles) from Kabul, and Khowst another 100 kilometers. The Afghan Government has had to resupply the city with hazardous night flights because of the mujahidin blockade of the road.

"Perhaps we will go ahead to Khowst," Mr. Kawiani said, adding that a similar barrage of bombing and missiles would only be used "if they (the rebels) fire first."

Reports here have said the mujahidin may launch renewed attacks on Khowst and Jalalabad, another eastern city, but there has been no confirmation from senior officials.

Bangladesh

Least Developed Countries Adopt Declaration

BK1302122590 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] The least developed countries [LDC's] have ended their first-ever ministerial-level meeting after adopting the Dhaka declaration. The declaration calls for effective policies and measures at all levels to resolve the problems and issues in the LDC's. It stresses the need for constant and meaningful action to help these countries out of their unprecedented development crisis.

The declaration presents a common platform of the LDC's for consideration by the second UN conference of the LDC's to be held in Paris in September this year. Added to the declaration is also [word indistinct] Dhaka document which contains the proposal of the LCD's for a plan of action for the 1990s. The Dhaka declaration has emphasized the need for poverty alleviation and sustainable development. It (?shows) the exceptional severity of external debt problem being faced by the least developed nations.

The delegates noted with deep concern that the international community has so far failed to respond to their most serious problems. According to the declaration, the LDC's themselves have the primary responsibilities for

their socioeconomic development. Due to their weaknesses and political, structural, handicaps, domestic efforts [words indistinct] complemented by adequate external resources [words indistinct].

The Dhaka declaration expressed the hope the second UN conference of LDC's in Paris will adopt an effective plan of action to prevent further deterioration in the LDC's and reactivate [words indistinct]. The declaration also stressed the need for sustained, coordinated, and effective follow-up and monitoring the plan of action for the 1990 as per national and global level.

Briefing newsmen at the end of the three-day meeting in Dhaka, Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said the successful outcome of the Dhaka meeting is a significant milestone in the further strengthening of the solidarity of the LDC's. It will make substantial contribution to the preparatory process now underway for the Paris conference on LDC's.

From the ministerial meeting in Dhaka the LDC's have emerged with renewed strength and wisdom of what could be achieved together for unity and common perception of problems.

Our representative says the Dhaka meeting also adopted three [as heard] decisions. The first is to send a mission to donor capitals to apprise them about the needs and problems of the LDC's. The other decision is to establish a center for research on LDC's. The idea was advanced by President Ershad in his inaugural address on Saturday.

Our representative says the Dhaka meeting was attended by about 30 LDC's, 20 foreign delegations were led by ministers.

Bad Weather Forces Austria's Mock To Stop Over

BK1402154890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1542 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 14 (AFP)—Foul weather forced Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock, en route from Thailand to Bhutan, to make an overnight stop here Wednesday, the official BSS News Agency said.

The agency said Mr. Mock's Druk-air flight was forced to re-route because of bad weather conditions in Bhutan.

Mr. Mock was on his way from a three-day visit to Thailand. He also made visits to India and Nepal.

Meanwhile, the minister held talks with his Bangladesh counterpart, Anisul Islam Mahmud, and discussed matters of common concern, BSS said.

It said that Mr. Mock was interested to learn the first ministerial meeting of the world's least developed countries (LDC's) which ended in here Monday.

The LDC ministers ended the three-day session with adoption of a plan of action for the 1990s aimed at alleviating poverty and reducing the burden of debt, officials said.

Foreign Minister Meets Nepalese Counterpart 13 Feb

BK1402010890 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, now in Dhaka in connection with the LDC [Least Developed Countries] meeting, discussed bilateral, regional, and international issues with Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud today.

The Nepalese foreign minister leaves for home tomorrow.

Chinese Air Force Chief Meets Counterpart

BK0902161990 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The visiting Chinese People's Liberation Army commander general, Wang Hai, had a meeting with chief of the air staff of Bangladesh Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Mumtazuddin Ahmed, in Dhaka today. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

Earlier, the Chinese general placed floral wreaths at the Sikha Anirban at Dhaka cantonment.

Calls on Ershad

BK1402010490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The visiting People's Liberation Army commander, Air Force General Wang Hai, called on President Ershad today. General Wang Hai conveyed to the president the good wishes of the Chinese president and the prime minister.

The president thanked the Chinese Government and the people for their support and assistance to Bangladesh.

Demonstrations Banned Before Opposition Campaign

BK1402124890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1229 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 14 (AFP)—A five-day ban on demonstrations has been imposed in areas surrounding the office of Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, police said Wednesday, ahead of a planned anti-government campaign.

Processions, demonstrations and gatherings would not be permitted around the Tejgaon area of the city, where the president's office was located, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) said.

The ban, which was to begin midnight Wednesday, applies to approach roads, lanes and bylanes, it said.

"Carrying of explosives and all kinds of weapons and other harmful materials" in the specified areas have also been banned, the DMP added.

The leading opposition Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed has planned a sit-in Thursday at the president's secretariat, close to Dhaka Cantonment Barracks, as part of its continuing anti-Ershad campaign.

The DMP said the ban was imposed to ensure that daily life in the area was not "disturbed."

India

Singh Blames Pakistan for 'Terrorism' in Kashmir

BK1502034290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said that the current spate of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir is the handiwork of Pakistan. He made it clear that both the Government and the people of India are determined to thwart any attempt against the unity and integrity of the country.

Addressing a series of public meetings in Rajasthan last night, Mr. V.P. Singh said wrong policies of the previous government in Jammu and Kashmir has allowed the situation to get out of hand. Mr Singh made it clear that India wanted friendly relations with its neighbors, but nobody should take her for granted.

Minister Rules Out Dialogue With 'Subversives'

BK1402161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] The union home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has ruled out any kind of dialogue with the subversives in Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking to newsmen at Raj Bhavan [governor house] in Srinagar today, he said that there could be no compromise on the unity and integrity of the country.

The home minister, who arrived in Srinagar on a day's visit to review the law and order situation in the valley, said the center would initiate a political process only after terrorism was fully contained in the troubled valley.

Measures for strengthening law and order in the Kashmir Valley and to speed up the work on various projects were discussed at a high-level meeting presided over by the home minister later today.

Four persons, including a subversive, were killed and at least six injured, two of them seriously, in sporadic incidents of fire in Srinagar today. In another incident at Amira Kadal, subversives tried to snatch a rifle from a security force jawan [soldier]. The security forces opened fire in which two persons were killed. The subversives shot dead a civilian in the downtown area of the city.

Janata Party Demands Firm U.S. Stand on Kashmir

BK1302125690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The Janata Party has demanded convening of an urgent session of parliament to discuss the Kashmir issue and the role of Pakistan in abetting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi today, the party working president, Dr. Suramanian Swamy, demanded a firm stand from the United States on the Kashmir issue. He expressed happiness that the Soviet Union has shown solidarity with India over the issue.

Swiss Authorities To Assist in Bofors Inquiry

BK1302100390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] The Swiss authorities have found in order the request letter issued by a Delhi court last week seeking assistance of the judicial authorities in that country in the Bofors gun deal investigations. A CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] spokesman told our correspondent in New Delhi that the request letter will now be placed before the investigating judges at Geneva and Zurich. The spokesman said the Swiss judges will consider issuing directions to the banks mentioned in the request letter to place before them all necessary documents and information regarding the accounts into which the commissions of the deal were allegedly deposited.

Our correspondent recalls that last week the additional district and session judge, Mr R.C. Jain, sought from the Swiss judicial authorities details of the beneficiaries and of the holders of six frozen Swiss bank accounts to whom the Bofors had allegedly paid the kickbacks.

Austrian Foreign Minister Holds News Conference

BK0902155490 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The Austrian foreign minister, Mr. Alois Mock, has expressed the hope that Pakistan will respond positively to the Indian efforts to normalize relations between the two countries. Addressing a crowded news conference in New Delhi today, he said the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, discussed the present state of Indo-Pak relations with him. Mr. Alois Mock said all necessary steps should be taken for a peaceful settlement of the problem.

In reply to a question, he said the Austrian firm is determined to continue its efforts to sell the 155-mm field guns to India. No middlemen will be allowed in the deal.

In reply to another question, Mr. Mock said he had wide-ranging discussions with Indian leaders on expanding bilateral economic ties in the fields of hydro-electric power generation, communications, and railway.

On Cambodia, the Austrian minister said he has discussed the issue with Indian leaders and sought their

views as the largest democracy in the world. He said he will also discuss the Cambodian issue with Nepal, Thailand, and Bhutan. Five permanent members of the Security Council will meet soon to discuss the Cambodian issue.

Protocol on Hydroelectric Power Signed With USSR

BK1302085790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a protocol on power providing for speedy completion of the first unit of the Tehri hydroelectric project. The agreement was reached at the end of the week-long meeting of a joint working group in New Delhi. The two sides reviewed the progress on the project and decided to ensure commissioning of the unit in six years. They agreed to put into operation the first unit of the Koteshwar Hydel project in Garhwal Himalayas around the same time.

3 Explosions Reported in Srinagar City

BK1502090490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] There were three explosions in Srinagar City today. In one of the explosions, which took place in the Press Information Bureau, the building was damaged and two police constables were injured. The two other blasts took place at Rainawari post office and state road transport corporation bus stand at Batamalu, damaging the post office building and a bus.

Meanwhile, curfew has been relaxed for 13 hours from 0600 this morning in Srinagar City and other major towns. Shops and business establishments were partially open in some parts of the Srinagar City and in some towns while they were completely closed in other parts of the city and the towns.

Congress-I Leads Manipur Polls; Violence Noted

BK1402043090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Excerpts] In the assembly polls in Manipur, the Congress-I maintains its lead over other parties, winning 12 out of the 24 seats, the results for which have been declared so far. Four results each have gone in favor of the Janata Dal and the Manipur People's Party. Two seats each have gone in favor of the CPI [Communist Party of India] and the Congress-S. [passage omitted]

The entire office of the deputy commissioner of Imphal was burnt down by a violent mob at about 0200 this morning. Our Imphal correspondent, A.P. Sharma, who was at the counting center at the time of the incident, reports that ballot boxes of 11 constituencies along with the entire records of the office have been reduced to ashes. Police had to resort to firing in which one person was killed. Several vehicles were also burnt. Our correspondent says that the trouble began when one ballot paper of a different constituency was detected by a counting agent of one of the political parties, where the counting for the Singhjamei constituency was in progress. The home minister, Mr. Tampok Singh, was declared elected from there.

Iran

Tehran Comments on Anniversary of Rushdie Decree

NC1402132290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0447 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] One year ago today, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God bless his soul, issued the shariah decree condemning to death the author and publishers of the blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses." [passage omitted]

What makes the book insulting is not the simple use of Islamic names and places, but the fact it contains various insulting names and indecent words. This has greatly enraged the Muslims. [passage omitted]

The decisive reaction by the Islamic revolution's leadership to the West's cultural plot was the impetus for marches and demonstrations in Muslim nations. Popular marches against the behind-the-scene organizers of this satanic plot were conducted in most Islamic countries, and in some, especially India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, these popular demonstrations were covered in blood, and many Muslims were martyred.

Western governments tried to portray these demonstrations as being limited to one country or one part of the world and, while denying the Muslims their right to defend Islamic criteria and values, they launched a propaganda campaign to distort this issue. All this, however, could not thwart the unity and solidarity of the Muslims in their protests against the publication of this book and, at the same time, it increased the Muslims' alertness and their sensitivity vis-a-vis these efforts by Western governments. Contrary to the West's propaganda, not only Muslims in Islamic countries but also those in European countries, where they are a minority, voiced their protest against the book.

"The Satanic Verses," which caused all this commotion around the world, never could have been published without the direct intervention and support of the British Government. The publication of this book, which took place within the framework of a cultural plot against Islam, was justified on the grounds of freedom of speech and the pen.

Even though freedom of speech and the pen is respected, it cannot be used as a tool to insult the sanctities of the ummah. Many countries have a variety of cultures living in them and are not prepared to allow anything and everything to be published because of social laws or in an

effort to prevent unrest or insults. Apart from these considerations, there are governments that ban the publication of anything they consider contrary to their current policies. Mrs. Thatcher's government at least has a long record of this. During the 10 years of her rule, articles, books, and television documentaries were banned because they did not conform with the government's policies, and their authors were threatened with imprisonment. These steps by the British authorities never have been interpreted as violations of freedom of speech and the pen.

Despite the protests by Muslims in various countries and the admissions by the British prime minister and foreign secretary that the book is insulting, the British Government nevertheless has refrained from taking any practical step against the author and from gathering copies of the book on the grounds of freedom of speech and the pen. The British Government's behavior in the case of "The Satanic Verses" and the contrast between this and London's steps in similar cases in the past gradually was interpreted by the Muslims as support for the author of the book and thus support for the insult to Islam and the Muslims. This was tantamount to a comprehensive cultural attack on Islamic society.

Muslims are immersed in Islamic culture, and their most important capital in the confrontation with arrogance and the elements of colonialism is the strength of their belief in Islam. [passage omitted]

At any rate, the rare and historic decree of the imam, may God bless his soul, and the extensive awakening of the Muslims once again revealed a colonialist plot. The Western governments, especially the British Government, which made the most propaganda and political capital of this, not only failed in their efforts, but also discredited themselves before Muslims throughout the world. The severence of Britian's relations with the Islamic Republic and its isolation in the EEC after the other EEC representatives returned to Tehran therefore are yet another example of the Thatcher government's complete failure.

Velayati Message on Confronting Rushdie 'Plot'

LD1402181190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] I draw your attention to a piece of news that just now was handed to me.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the historic fatwa of his holiness the imam regarding the author of the insulting book, "The Satanic Verses," Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, sent a message to the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization and the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries. In part of that message, referring to the issuance of the fatwa of his holiness the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, it says: The calculated conspiracy to publish and publicize the said book indicates arrogance has adopted various policies and methods to confront Islam. Resort to cultural invasions can be regarded as the principal characteristic of such policies in the era of expansion and revival of Islam.

Another part of the message says: Developments during the past year indicate that despite its miserable defeat in that plot, arrogance insists on continuing its insulting invasion of the sanctities and values of Islam. On the other hand, changes in the international order, stemming from the development in the relationship between the East and the West, as well as the intensification of cold war between the West and the ummah of Islam, make more likely the implementation of political pressures and deeper cultural plots. Under such conditions it is incumbent on the Islamic countries to adopt common stances to confront in a serious and permanent manner the propaganda conspiracies of the enemies of Islam, and in so doing to deploy, more than ever, their potentials.

In this message, Mr. Velayati also called for a debate and survey at the coming meeting of the countries of the Islamic Conference to find various ways to attain coordination and unanimity of views to confront such cultural invasions. He also called [on Muslim countries] not to spare any efforts in brotherly cooperation aimed at following up the previous decisions regarding the safeguarding of Islamic values and realization of the cultural strategy of the world of Islam.

Mohtashemi: Rushdie Apology Cannot Affect Fatwa

LD1402203890 Tehran IRNA in English 1806 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—Neither the passage of time nor Salman Rushdie's repentance would affect the validity of the late Imam Khomeyni's death decree against the apostate author, a Majles deputy explained Wednesday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said "The fatwa sanctioning the execution of Rushdie was not the imam's verdict but rather a decree of Islam and the Holy Koran."

He made the assertions at a ceremony commemorating the martyrdom of several Pakistani and Indian Muslims during demonstrations in Pakistan and India last year against Rushdie's sacreligious work "The Satanic Verses". [passage omitted]

The former interior minister also termed Imam Khomeyni's fatwa an "explosion" that shook the world of blasphemy.

He said the issue not only completely foiled global arrogance's divisive plots but also helped the Muslim ummah to close its ranks.

"The imam's fatwa heralded the uprising against elements bent on eliminating Islam," added the Hojjat ol-Eslam.

The Indian-born British author of the satanic novel has gone into hiding under British police protection ever since the world Muslims determined to bring him to justice.

Mohtashemi, describing publication of the blasphemous book as a "pre-calculated plot against Islamic resurgence," pointed out "Salman Rushdie is not an individual but a current generated by the forces of blasphemy and polytheism."

Foundation Supports Fatwa

LD1302131390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] In view of the anniversary of the issuance of the edict of the Imam Khomeyni—may he be accepted in God's paradise—concerning the death sentence against Salman Rushdie, writer of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses," the 15th Khordad Foundation has issued a statement, which says: Not only has the glory of this edict not been lessened by the hue and cry of the West's propaganda bodies, but, rather, today pure Muhammadan Islam has found new life; the life-giving breeze of the Islamic revolution is blowing throughout the universe and we are witness to the disintegration of the values of blasphemy and global arrogance.

The statement emphasizes: With the issuance of the historic edict of the founder of the Islamic revolution of Iran, those who falsely claim that they support freedom of thought and speech all over the world are crying, "Woe! What a calamity!"—yet the immensity and strength of the fatwa was such that it foiled all the propaganda of global arrogance and nipped in the bud this cultural plot of the enemies. Now, on the occasion of the issuance of that divine fatwa, the morale boosting words of the gracious leader of the islamic revolution, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, underlining the point that this edict of the Imam remains in force and must be carried out, is a sign that the path of the holy imam—may his dust be sanctified—will be followed and his edicts observed.

Foundations Ask Khamene'i To Form New Council

LD0902161990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The first comprehensive congress of the Islamic revolution foundations ended its work today at a session attended by the Majles speaker and issued an eight point resolution. [passage omitted]

According to the same report, the eight point resolution of the first congress of the revolution foundations was read out. The congress was held at Tehran University, through the efforts of the Coordinating Council of the Islamic Propagation [organization], from 17-19 Bahman [6-8 February] with the participation of 18 revolutionary institutions.

In part of the resolution the revolutionary institutions, announcing loyalty to the lofty ideals of the honorable imam, may his dust be sanctified, renewed their allegiance to the Muslims' Vali-ye Amr [vice regent] and the leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. Also they called for decisive and immediate action to reform the country's administrative structure and to institutionalize the executive system. The resolution asks the leader to establish a council at his discretion to be called the Council of the Islamic Revolution Institutions under his own direct supervision to strengthen the said institutions as much as possible and to bring about conformity in their functions.

Meanwhile, with due regard to the charter on the reconstruction crusade which has been issued by the leader, inviting the Hezbollah ummah [to participate in reconstruction effort], participants at the congress expressed their desire for the active participation of the institutions and their acceptance of key and principal responsibilities during the reconstruction period. They also asked for the establishment of the secretariat of the revolutionary institutions.

Iran, USSR Sign Agreement on Border Travel

LD1502114590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran and the USSR signed two memorandums of understanding, according to which they have established regulations aimed at facilitating contacts between the nationals of the two countries.

According to our correspondent's report, based on a memorandum of understanding, signed this morning by our country's deputy foreign minister in charge of legal and consular affairs and the Soviet deputy foreign minister in charge of consular affairs, border residents in both countries may engage in traffic across the border to a depth of 45 km of specified areas, for 15 days, four times a year.

Based on another memorandum of understanding, under the title of terms governing visits by relations and guests of the nationals of the two countries, the nationals of the both countries may stay in the other country for two months, provided they hold passports and valid invitations, confirmed by the relevant authorities of the host country.

In the said memorandum of understanding, the period of issuance of visas for visitors has been set at 10 days, while in emergency cases, it will be three days.

Zambian Parliamentary Speaker Arrives in Tehran

NC1402061990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Mr (Molikita), speaker of the Zambian National Assembly, arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a parliamentary delegation which is visiting our country at the invitation of Mr Karrubi, speaker of the Islamic

Consultative Assembly. He was welcomed at the airport by Deputy Majles Speaker Mr Bayat and a number of Majles deputies.

The Central News Unit reports that the Zambian National Assembly speaker and his entourage will hold talks with our country's parliamentary and political officials on cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries.

In an interview with our correspondent at Tehran airport, the Zambian official pointed to the historic and political experiences of the Islamic Republic of Iran and welcomed the exchange of parliamentary delegations between Iran and Zambia, adding that Iran is an ancient country with valuable historic and political experiences which can be used by the younger country of Zambia and lead to the expansion of bilateral relations.

Meets With Karrubi

LD1402211290 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 14, IRNA—Islamic Iran attaches great importance to the African people and will support their struggles until the weeding out of apartheid. The Majles speaker told the speaker of Zambia's National Assembly today.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi, in his meeting with Fonianda Molikita who arrived here earlier in the day, said the struggles of African states has forced the racst South African regime to retreat.

Karrubi also called for expansion of parliament relations between the two countries.

Molikita said in response that he was here to promote mutual ties in various fields and also enhance the friendship and understanding between the Iran and Zambia.

He said the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979 inspired hopes in the hearts of all oppressed people throughout the world.

Velayati Comments on Release of Mandela

NC1502092590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Following the release of Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, after 27 years in the South African regime's prisons, our Foreign Minister Velayati spoke to our correspondent and stressed the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the struggle of the tyrannized nation of South Africa. Let us hear our colleague's report regarding this:

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] After 27 years of indifference to human standards and 27 years of violence against the black-skinned strugglers, the racist South African regime finally has accepted that it must sit down at the table with the leader of the struggle. Nelson Mandela, the 71-year-old African National Congress leader, was released last Sunday after 27 years of incarceration in the South African racist regime's prisons. International publications and world leaders have welcomed Mandela's release and described it as a turning point in the struggle by the tyrannized people of Africa.

The Islamic Republic of Iran also has declared its absolute support of the struggles of the repressed people of Africa. Our foreign minister said regarding this:

[Velayati] The release of Mr. Mandela in South Africa in fact is one of the greatest gains of the struggles of the black people of that country. We should say it is a pivotal event in the history of the African struggle. The African people especially, and all the oppressed people of the world in general, should be felicitated on Mandela's release.

The apartheid regime in fact is the last vestige of colonialism on the African continent. Perhaps we can speak in symbolic terms, and say this augurs well for the African people. On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we always have supported the struggles of the people of South Africa. After the revolution, we halted oil supplies to the South African regime.

In the future as well, we will continue our cordial relations with the black combatants of South Africa, and we hope will succeed in attaining their humanitarian aspirations and establish a government based on the will of the majority of their people. [end recording]

Velayati Meets Lebanese Hizballah Council Members

LD1302183390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Members of the leadership council of the revolutionary movement of Lebanese Hizballah this morning met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati. In this meeting, the delegation of the revolutionary movement of Lebanese Hizballah presented a report in connection with the latest developments in Lebanon and the anti-Zionist struggles of Muslims. Mr. Velayati, in turn, stressed the need to speed up the process of ending disputes among Islamic and national parties and groups in Lebanon. He further declared the unstinting support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the struggles of the Lebanese people.

Furthermore, a delegation from Lebanese Druze clergies, headed by Shaykh Mursa al-Nasr, today met Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati. In this meeting, Shaykh Murs al-Nasr conveyed a message from Mr. Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, to Mr. Velayati. He also presented a report on the present situation in Lebanon, while stressing greater cultural and political cooperation between the Druze sect and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Then Mr. Velayati stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the Islamic and national forces of Lebanon, while declaring our country's readiness to further strengthen relations with the Druze sect and the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party.

Yazdi Meets Delegation

LD1402165490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Feb 90

[Text] A group of members of the leadership council of Lebanese Hezbollah, who have come to Tehran to take part in ceremonies marking the blessed 10 Days of Dawn and the 11th anniversary of the victory of Iran's Islamic revolution, this morning met and conferred with Mr. Yazdi, the head of judicial power.

They presented to him a report about the latest developments on the political-military scene in Lebanon and the disputes between the revolutionary movement of Hezbollah and the Amal movement, as well as about the exisiting equations in the region [as heard]. The delegation also expressed their backing and thanks for the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran aimed at ending disputes between the Hezbollah and Amal movements of Lebanon, while seeking the continuation and enhancement of such efforts.

The head of judiciary then pointed to the interests of global arrogance being endangered by appearance of real Islamic revolutionary movements in the region. He said: Global arrogance sees pure endencies toward Islam—which are taking new shape in the region and the world—as against their interests. He continued by wishing success to all the Muslims in the region and Lebanon, while stressing the continuation of the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran aimed at bringing about understanding among the ranks of Islamic forces in the region. He further urged those forces to use all material and spiritual resources to create unity among the ranks of Muslims, in particular the Shiites of Lebanon, in order to wage confrontation against the Zionist enemy, which is the main factor responsible for disputes and crises in the region.

GDR's Fischer Sends Message to Velayati

LD0902211190 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) Oskar Fischer has supported full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 598.

GDR is concerned over the lack of progress in implementation of the resolution, and shares the same view with Iran in this regard, Fischer told his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a message.

He reiterated that all avenues should be employed for the full execution of the resolution.

Current developments in East Germany were also explained in the message submitted to the Iranian Ambassador to East Berlin Hamid Reza Asefi.

Problems Facing Restoration of EC Ties Viewed

LD1302190190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] Dear listeners, the trend of expanding the Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with Western countries, notably with Britain and France, once again has reached a bottleneck.

Just as it seemed the continuous, covert and overt efforts of Rafsanjani's gang to restore relations with these countries was reaching fruition and right after the ratification of the Five-Year Plan and its pass through the thorny alleys of the Majles and the Guardian Council preparing the way for establishing extended economic relations with Western Europe, the pretend or forced claims of the real controllers of the regime—that they are faithful to state terrorism and (?tension-creating) policies, which is what the hardliners want and which, at the same time, are among the fundamental principles of the Velayat-e Faqih—has rendered useless all of those efforts.

To obtain acceptance as Khomeyni's successor and to reduce the pressure of the hardliners, who embarked on an extensive propaganda campaign after the Five-Year Plan was ratified about how the doors of the country were being thrown open and the rulers of the Islamic Republic were deviating from the so-called principles of the Islamic Republic, Khamene'i used the anniversary of the issuance of the fatwa sentencing Salman Rushdie to death to emphasize the need for the sentence to be carried out and thus make his own presence felt. The leader of the regime and his (?colleagues) calculated that, bearing in mind the presence of Mahdavi-Kani in Britain and the efforts which were being made to convince British authorities Salman Rushdie should be transferred to somewhere outside Britian, and also, the nearly successful outcome of secret talks with France for the release of Anis Naqqash, a terrorist liked by the hardliners—this hue and cry would not amount to anything. They moreover hoped that if their plans succeeded, they themselves then could both pose as the continuous followers of Khomeyni's policy of neither East nor West and secure from the West—with the least possible headache—$27 billion worth of credit and investment needed by the Five-Year Plan.

The plans of the leader-president camp were not altogether off-course because, the other parties—the Western Europeans—on several occasions had shown themselves ready to do what was best for their political and economic interests and wheel and deal with the terrorism of the Velayat-e Faqih. The most prominent example of this was the Irangate scandal, debates about which have resurfaced these days in America. Perhaps this is not unrelated to the whole collection of the changes and development in relations between Iran and West Europe.

The actions and reactions to the remarks made by Khamene'i have changed the situation and have, to a

certain extent, halted the mentioned play by the leaders of the regime. The protest letter from 160 world famous writers and artists in reply to what Khamene'i said; the trial of Fu'ad Saleh, leader of France's Hezbollah, which turned into a trial of the Islamic Republic; the reaction of the British Government's officials to the renewal by the leader of the Islamic Republic of the edict to murder Salman Rushdie; and before all this, the intensification of the activities of hardline Iranian students in Britain that led to the expulsion of nine of them on charges conspiracy to kill Salman Rushdie—all these have created a feeling among the people in European countries that is difficult for their governments to ignore. These events surely will have a negative impact on the kind of relations European countries seek with the Islamic Republic. They also will, at least in the short run, reduce the foreign resources available to the regime which it needs to advance its Five-Year Program.

What is interesting in these recent events is that the new problems facing the regime's foreign policy this time are not directly a result of the confrontational actions of the hardliners. That is, in all this noise and sensation, the extremists within the government did not enter the arena in the same way in which, for example, they did regarding the renewal of diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia or the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon. This demonstrates the Velayat-e Faqih construct of the regime—ith its many cracks and its shaky basis—is dictating its own needs to those holding the reins of power, even if this is contrary to what the latter desire. The leader and, in certain cases, the president of the regime, are compelled to observe the methods of backward and medieval rule which often have influenced the regime's diplomacy. The latest case can be cited as an example.

We thus see the regime, which has not yet gotten over an intense, long-drawn debate concerning the Five-Year Plan, now faces a fresh crisis in its foreign policy.

Baku Clergyman on Political-Religious Links

LD0902210390 Tehran IRNA in English 1519 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Ardabil (Azerbaijan, Khavari), Feb. 9, IRNA—The Soviet Azeri Muslims will continue with their struggles and strikes as long as the Soviet troops and tanks are in the streets of Baku (Capital of the Soviet Azerbaijan), said Sheykholeslam Pashazadeh, a Muslim religious leader in Caucasus.

Pashazadeh who was addressing worshipers after holding congregational prayers in Jame' mosque in Baku Thursday [8 February] night called on the people to be patient and show tolerance.

"Our religion, Islam, is intermingled with politics and is meaningless without it," stressed the Soviet religious figure.

The prayer ceremony was fully broadcast on Baku television, monitored here in this northwestern province near the Soviet border, in a 40-minute programme. The T.V. also broadcast the whole 'Sura Yasin' (chapter 36 of the holy Koran) for the second time in the last two weeks and screened the mass gathering of Soviet Muslims at the 'martyrs park' and surrounding streets Thursday night at the graves of victims of the recent clashes with Soviet troops.

Construction Jihad Representative Appointed

LD0802095990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, in an edict today appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Rajab 'Ali Heydarzadeh as his representative to the construction jihad. The text of the edict of the leader of the Islamic revolution is as follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Rabaj 'Ali Heydarzadeh. With due regard to the fact that the sacred institution of the construction jihad is one of the good features of the revolution and ranks among the revolution's immortal blessings—a feature for which its activities received the attention of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his dust be sanctified—and also in view of [our] faith in the qualification of your excellency in terms of knowledge and deed and your background of service in that sacred institution, following the request of the minister and the honorable officials of the jihad, I appoint you as my representative to the construction jihad while expressing my thanks to Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Nuri. I hope your presence will help the progress of valuable and encompassing activities performed by the dear jihad personnel. I also hope that the honorable minister and officials of the jihad and all other self-denying elements who were actively present at the military, constructive, and cultural fronts of Jihad in the past years will always be favored by divine blessings. I also deem it necessary, while thanking the dear ulema and clerics who are engaged at the construction jihad in spiritual services and valuable guidance, to ask for the continuation of their success in maintaining the soundness of the path of the valuable institution of the revolution

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i; 18.11.68 [7 Feb 1990]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Expresses Need for Inventors

LD0802234690 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani while awarding model inventors, innovators and researchers here Thursday, lauded their efforts to attain self-sufficiency and not let the country become dependent.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, saying that Iran was witnessing one of the glorious and promising scenes in the history of the Islamic Revolution, termed research and scientific work as among the "most important factors" to guarantee the country's independence.

The president said that the country's research budget in the five year development plan showed a 2.5 fold increase and hoped it would increase ten folds.

Describing inventors, inovators and researchers as "pillars of the country's development", Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the number of researchers in Iran were by far fewer than that in the developed countries and that "we need a momentum to reach a sensible ratio."

He also regretted that many an invention used during the country's defence versus the Iraqi regime had yet to be introduced and that many defence projects were left unfinished.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that arrogant countries which were unfortunately the centers of research, were not will to see the Third World, particularly such countries as Iran standing against their interests, equip itself with the weapon of research and invention.

"Our more difficult task, among other things, is to campaign against plots of Global Arrogance to steal our innovatory and thoughtful brains," he cautioned.

He made it clear "even though the (Iraqi-imposed) war comes to an end, we, because of the justice-seeking and anti-oppression nature of the Islamic Revolution, will remain committed to strengthening the country's defence forces and independence."

Aluminum Production Increase Described

LD0302115490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] With the production of 11,000 tonnes of aluminium per month by the Iran Aluminium Company and its delivery to intermediate industries, in addition to satisfying the need of the industries in this basic metal and its distribution to the consumers, the price of aluminium in the market will be considerably reduced.

The managing director of Iran Aluminum Company, in an exclusive interview with our reporter, described the level of production and the methods of distribution of aluminum. Please pay attention to this report:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Hamzianpur, what new facilities have been made for the distribution of aluminum in the country?

[Hamzianpur] As you know, and as the martyr-nurturing ummah has also been informed through the mass media, in the month of Aban of this year [the month starting on 23 October 1989], the production of the company reached its maximum level, namely 45,000 tonnes. The production of our smelting plant, which had a capacity of 120,000 tonnes, is at the moment producing between 90,000-100,000 tonnes. At the moment, the monthly production of our smelting plant is more than 8,000 tonnes per month, and our sale is above 11,000 tonnes. In other words, in the past 3 months, we have given about 30,000 tonnes to the market. This 30,000 tonnes has totally destroyed the black market of this plant and has caused the prices to fall.

Therefore, in the direction of the new policies of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it was decided that we would announce to all the factories and all the intermediate industries which change this metal into profiles or dishes or industrial goods, and we have announced it in the newspapers, that they can come to our sales departments and receive aluminium and can then change it [to manufactured products] and place it at the disposal of the customers. We hope that with the implementation of this plan we will no longer have an aluminum black market in this country.

[Reporter] Thank you for your remarks. [end recording]

Pakistan

Bhutto Views Nuclear Cooperation With France

BK1402154790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0250 GMT 14 Feb 90

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 14 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto believes Franco-Pakistan cooperation in the nuclear field, suspended for more than a decade, might resume after President Francois Mitterrand's visit here next week.

Reiterating that Pakistan's nuclear programme was geared towards peaceful purposes, she also invited neighbouring India to join Pakistan in renouncing nuclear proliferation "as a debt to mankind."

"We are prepared for any international safeguards for our nuclear power plant, should we be able to get it," Ms. Bhutto said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Tuesday [13 February].

But in an obvious reference to the country's main rival India, which detonated an atomic device in May 1974, Ms. Bhutto warned that "if there is an attempt to have nuclear testing by any other country, it would put tremendous pressures" on Pakistan.

Pakistan has acquired nuclear enrichment capability, but it has not carried out any nuclear tests, though some Western experts believe Islamabad has the ability to produce a nuclear bomb.

In 1978, two years after signing a deal, France unilaterally cancelled the supply of a reprocessing plant to Pakistan under U.S. pressure following reports that Islamabad intended to manufacture an atomic bomb.

Pakistan denied the reports and insisted France honour its deal. Pakistan also demanded compensation worth millions of dollars including interest on some 200 million U.S. dollars it paid as a down payment on the reprocessing plant.

The issue brought the two countries to the verge of a rupture in diplomatic relations. Islamabad's case was considered favourably at the International Court of Justice, but Paris has now called for an out of court settlement.

"We had been discussing this issue earlier and, of course, the discussions will continue" during Mr. Mitterrand's three-day visit starting Monday, Ms. Bhutto said, adding "we hope that they will bear fruit."

Describing the visit, the first by a French president to Pakistan, as "historic", Ms. Bhutto said "there are boundless opportunities" for cooperation between the two countries in the field of investment, industrial cooperation and transfer of technology.

"France is one of the leading countries in the world in terms of transfer of energy-producing technology," she said, adding that in her previous two meetings, "I found that Mr. Mitterrand has a deep understanding of the Third World."

"We have a tremendous shortfall of energy. Our whole economic performance is affected and also the quality of life," she said.

For Pakistan "energy is a key problem and France could assist us in making available environmentally clean and good energy," she stressed.

Asked to comment on a report in the magazine U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT last week that Pakistan was in possession of six atomic bombs, she said "all sorts of reports are published" about her country's nuclear programme.

But she said her government wanted "to contribute to a lasting settlement seeking to make at least this region free of nuclear proliferation."

She said Pakistan had asked India to discuss the non-proliferation issue "because, we feel that globally speaking, and as a debt to mankind, one should work for non-proliferation."

Pakistan, she said, was in the process of drawing up an agreement with China for a 300 megawatt power plant which would be "under full safeguards."

"There has not been really any objection" to the Sino-Pakistan deal, she added.

Replying to reports that India, which wants two 1,000 megawatt nuclear power plants from France, was opposing Pakistani efforts to acquire similar technology, she said "as far as nuclear energy is for peaceful purposes, I don't think there is any ground for objection by any country."

India and Pakistan "ought to decide on confidence building measures on a question as delicate and as sensitive and as far reaching as the nuclear issue," Ms. Bhutto said.

Sind Assembly Supports Government on Kashmir

BK1502111590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] The Sind Assembly has expressed full support to the policy of the federal government on the Kashmir issue. The house unanimously adopted a resolution saying the policy is fully reflective of the aspiration of the entire nation. Those who spoke on the resolution said the people of Pakistan support their Kashmiri Muslim brethren in their just struggle to exercise their right of self-determination to decide their future.

Kashmiris Launch Diplomatic Offensive

BK1002114690 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 Feb 90 p 12

[Text] Islamabad—Kashmiri leaders have launched a diplomatic offensive to bring the limelight and Indian atrocities in the held Kashmir as the people of Pakistan continued their rallies and public meetings throughout the country to support their cause. [sentence as published]

A Jehad [holy war] conference would be held in the Punjab metropolis on Friday (16 February) to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir while two delegations from the liberated territory here are busy since yesterday to mobilise the foreign missions to support their cause.

The Jehad Conference would be attended by the President of Azad Jammu and Kashminr [AJK] Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, besides a number of MPAs [Members of Provincial Assembly] and political leaders.

A delegation of AJK Motamar al-Alam Islami [World Muslim Congress] led by its President and chief justice of AJK, Mohammad Khurshid Khan on Thursday met with the ambassadors of Iran, Egypt and Nigeria and invited their attention towards the killings of the Kashmiris at the hands of the Indian Army. It not only sought their support to end the Indians brutalities in the occupied Kashmir but also requested them to use their influence on Indian Government to hold a plebiscite in Kashmir to decide finally the fate of the 12 million Kashmiris. The delegation on Wednesday met with the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Indonesia and Bangladesh who promised their support for the cause of Kashmiris fighting to secure their inalienable rights.

Another delegation led by Mr Mohammad Sharif Tariq, President of Jammu and Kashmir League, too is here

since Wednesday and would further step up its diplomatic efforts on Saturday by meeting more ambassadors. Talking to APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN] he said that Kashmiris wanted to bring into the notice of the world community the supressive measures by the Indian Army to quell the mass upsurge by the Kahmiris demanding their right to self determination. He had already met with the Ambassadors of Egypt, Cuban Charge d'Affaires and with embassy officials of United States and Soviet Union and brought forth to them the Indian brutalities in occupied Kashmir.

The Chief of Azad Jammu and Kashmiri Muslim Conference, Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chauhry, left for London to lead there a Kashmiri demonstration before Indian High Commission in London. He was expected to leave for New York on Feb. 12 and would lead the procession of the Kashmir people to the United Nations office to condemn the brutal use of force by the Indian Army. He is likely meet the American Senators and Congressmen to mobilise their opinion in favour of Kashmir.

Pakistan Muslim League (Junejo Group) on Wednesday had also set up a committee under the leadership of the former Foreign Minister Zain Nooram to approach the foreign missions to seek their support for Kashmir.

Meanwhile a big procession under the leadership of Aga Riazul Islam, MPA on Thursday marched from Rawalpindi towards Muzaffarabad to express their solidarity to the struggling Kashmiris. Agha Riazul Islam addressing the rally before starting its long march, said that Kashmir was life line of Pakistan.

Indian High Commission Denies Arrests in Chakothi

BK1502063590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 15 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 14: The High Commission of India in Islamabad in a press release issued here on Wednesday [14 February] clarified that none of the persons who had crossed over the Line of Control at Chakothi in Azad Jammu and Kashmir was arrested.

They returned after the incident to the places of their origin, it added. It said the area was searched and there were no more casualties.

The press release said the High Commissioner of India to Pakistan, J.N. Dixit, conveyed this information to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the afternoon of 13th February 1990.

Local commanders on both sides in this area are also in contact with each other, the press release further said.

Chinese Here To Discuss Defense Cooperation

BK1302161790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Feb 90

[Text] A six-member Chinese defense team led by Major General (Ye Peng Shui) called on retired Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, the minister of state for defense, in Islamabad today. During the talks, matters relating to future cooperation in the field of defense and defense production between the two friendly countries were discussed.

The chief of the Army Staff of the Republic of Korea, General (Li Yang-she), also met with the minister of state for defense and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest.

Sri Lanka

Government To Repeal 6 Emergency Regulations

BK1502061290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0605 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Colombo, Feb 15 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Thursday [15 February] announced the lifting of several emergency regulations including one which allowed security forces to dispose of bodies without inquests.

Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said President Ranasinghe Premadasa ordered the repeal of six regulations under emergency laws with effect from midnight (18:30 GMT) Thursday.

The government has also withdrawn the right to proscribe political parties and removed restrictions on publications, the minister said.

However, anti-government rebel suspects could still be arrested and detained by troops.

Emergency regulations, which gave sweeping powers to troops to combat anti-government militants, were enforced on June 20 last year as rebels stepped up their attacks in a bid to overthrow the government.

Mr. Premadasa Wednesday announced he was willing to relax emergency regulations as part of a package to end youth unrest which fueled a bloody insurrection against his government last year.

"The lifting of the emergency, as soon as practicable, is uppermost in my mind. As the security situation has now improved considerably, I will be taking action to revoke certain clauses in the emergency regulations," he said.

[Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English at 1001 GMT 15 Feb in a similar report adds: He [Wijeratne] said the emergency regulations repealed are those pertaining to the following matters with immediate effect:
"Regulation 14—Restriction on Publications
"Regulation 14a—Prohibition of publishing of the proceedings of the all-party conference

"Regulation 43 (1) (a)—Travelling i
without a pass or a ticket in the railway
"Regulation 43 (1) (d)—Travelling on a
transport vehicle without tickets any public road
"Regulation 55 (f)—Providing for burial
of dead bodies without an inquest als or cremation
"Regulation 68—Proscription of politic
organizations ical parties and

Wijeratne: India Plotting To Kill 'Ke ey Men'

BK1502083690 Hong Kong AFP in Engli lish 0817 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Text] Colombo, Feb 15 (AFP)—India's e
gence agency was planning to assassinate l external intelli-
Colombo government in a bid to destabi key men in the
Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne bilise Sri Lanka,
Thursday [15 February]. e alleged here

Security forces arrested about 100 Tamil
men in Colombo in swoops Wednesday il and Sinhalese
with the alleged plot by the Research and y in connection
(RAW), the minister said. d Analysis Wing

Asked how RAW had planned to destabi
Mr. Wijeratne said: "By killing key men bilise Colombo,
ment. You think they are after chicken?" n in the govern-
"

He said most of the men in custody w
minority Tamil community but some w were from the
majority Sinhalese. He said some weapon were from the
on them, but declined to give details. ons were found

"This country will not tolerate RAW or
trying to destabilise this country. We are anybody else
meet those challenges," he told reporters afire prepared to
cabinet meeting. after the weekly

Mr. Wijeratne, who is also junior defence
told a group of political parties Wednesde minister, had
day that RAW was trying to create trouble in Colombo and troops had been ordered to arrest anyone linked with the agency.

"Anyone involved with RAW or connected with RAW will be arrested," Mr. Wijeratne said at the All Party Conference chaired by President Ranasinghe Premadasa and held to discuss a report on youth unrest in the island republic.

A Tamil delegate at the meeting said hundreds of young Tamils had been taken away from inns, lodgings, bus stations, and temples here overnight and were being held in police stations.

The Indian High Commission (embassy) here has rejected Mr. Wijeratne's allegations as baseless.

Asked if he had taken up the matter with the high commission, Mr. Wijeratne said: "I don't protest. I catch. You think I will waste my time protesting. What nonsense.

"I catch them and I warn them. If I catch them woe be unto them."

Mr. Wijeratne said there were "unpatriotic Sinhalese and Tamil" who were willing to do anything for money.

EPRLF Supports Effort To Unite Tamil Groups

BK1202130090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Feb 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the ruling EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] in the Northeastern Province has extended unconditional support to the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr. Karunanidhi, in his efforts to unite the Tamil groups in the island nation. In a statement, the EPRLF secretary general, Mr. Padmanabha, welcomed the resolution on Sri Lanka adopted at the recent state conference of the ruling DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] in Tamil Nadu. He said the EPRLF believes that no solution can be found through violence.